

UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
after

misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misunderstood as a failure of will." He also devoted much of his speech to America's economic difficulties.

HOME NEWS

Labour Party £500,000 in deficit as some unions fail to pay their affiliation fees on time

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Labour Party is undergoing a new financial crisis and its leaders are being advised to impose a freeze on recruitment of staff at the party's headquarters in London. That unprecedented measure is pending as trade union fighting over next Saturday's special party conference reaches its peak.

A deficit of £500,000 has been run up in the past few months as most of the trade unions who pledged to pay their massive affiliation fees for 1981 on time have failed to live up to their promises.

The party's staff negotiations committee, dominated by Mr Norman Atkinson, MP, the treasurer, will next week recommend to the national executive that all recruitment should be halted and posts should not be filled when they become vacant. Only clerical staffing would be exempt.

A loan of £250,000 made available by the unions shortly before Christmas at a preferential interest rate has been spent on paying staff wages, and the party is now being obliged to go back to the Co-operative Bank to borrow at an interest rate of 19 per cent.

Trade union leaders whose missing affiliation fees have contributed to the crisis will meet on Friday night to determine the outcome of the negotiations on an electoral college to choose the party leader.

The proposal most favoured appears to be the moderates' package giving the Parliamentary Labour Party half the electoral college votes, with the rest equally divided between affiliated trade unions and constituency parties.

But left-wing union leaders are still determined to push for a formula giving a third of the votes to each of those powerful groups. The Transport and General Workers' Union is to cast its 1,250,000 block vote for that line-up, although its leaders may shift marginally in the horse-trading expected at the Wembley conference.

A counter-meeting of right-wing unions, involving the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, the electricians, and the engineering workers, aimed at producing a trade union formula to scupper the whole electoral college exercise, is being arranged. It will be held in a Bloomsbury hotel in the next few days.

Their efforts were given a stimulus yesterday by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, whose executive council decided to vote only for its own policy of giving an outright majority in any electoral college to Labour MPs. The union's 850,000 block vote is to be withheld from voting on any other formula, even though that would deliver the conference to the left.

The union's delegates to the conference, who must muster a marginal militant majority on some political issues, are to meet on Friday night to decide their final position. By then a right-wing option putting the whole business off to the full party conference in Brighton in October may be available.

But the one issue that will not go away is the party's virtual bankruptcy. There are difficulties over £80,000 of unpaid rates due to Southwark council, and an appeal against that assessment is due to be lodged soon.

The unions whose affiliation fees should have been paid already are arguing that the economic recession has affected their membership levels and finances. Their political funds are at a low level, and a Conservative Party campaign in the north of England has been cited as the cause of a fall in members paying the political levy.

To recoup the party's fortunes, Labour leaders are planning to run a national lottery on May Day. A first prize of £100,000 has been suggested, but that is regarded by seasoned party workers as hopelessly optimistic.

Labour's long-term finances are in even greater jeopardy because the unions have refused to endorse a proposal that they should lift affiliation fees from the new level of 40p to 50p a head from January, 1982.

BBC strike by actors threatened

By Kenneth Gosling

Equity, the actors' union, said yesterday that it would call on its BBC members to strike unless the corporation increased a pay offer.

The union has called a mass meeting of members for February 1 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, in London. Mr Peter Plowright, general secretary, said: "We believe we are now in the most serious position we have yet been in, not only in these negotiations but throughout our dealings with the BBC in relation to television."

The BBC said last night that the offer of 7.5 per cent, was a fair one.

When negotiations began last November Equity asked for 30 per cent and it recently rejected 8 per cent; yesterday the council met to consider, and then reject the latest offer, which would raise the minimum from £125 a week to £141. Mr Plowright said a dispute was now possible over as little as £180,000.

"That would not narrow the gap with independent television but we would be willing to maintain the present disparity for a year in view of the financial position of the corporation and the country," he said.

Mr Plowright said that many familiar faces on television were working for £250 to £300 a week for not much more than 25 or 30 weeks a year.

Dispute cuts sailings at eight British ports

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Thirteen merchant navy dispute intensified sharply yesterday, with ferry and freight services halted or curtailed at eight British ports as the National Union of Seamen extended its strategy of unannounced strikes.

The General Council of British Shippers said that the dispute was becoming increasingly grave; the number of ships delayed because of the dispute had risen from 60 on Monday to 104, of which 28 were in foreign ports. That is the highest increase since the dispute began before Christmas.

The council indicated that member companies were operating to hold back some of the pay of seamen who were delaying ships, but it did not say details. The dispute was said to be affecting companies whose ships were badly disrupted yesterday, formally asked local union representatives to give the management notice to take their ships back to work.

The company is understood to be considering stopping the pay of ferry employees during disruptive action unless they accede to the request. Negotiations at port level on the request will resume this morning.

The Sealink move came after the company was forced to provide overnight accommodation for its staff.

darion, partly on board ship and partly in local hotels, on Monday night when the Port of London Authority's Channel Islands service was cancelled.

The unions' central disputes committee is expected to consider further intensification of the disputes at a meeting on Friday. Before that, services from Swansea are expected to be disrupted, with probable additional stoppages in Cairnryan, Dover and Felixstowe.

Other services were disrupted by strikes lasting between six and 36 hours, affecting vessels operating out of Southampton, Folkestone, Portsmouth, Fishguard, Holyhead, Liverpool and Heysham. Sealink services using Belgian and French crews were operating normally.

Townsend Thoresen said that there were strikes on board the ferry Viking Viking and the ferry Viking Viking, both in port at Le Havre.

The National Union of Seamen said that the line's Viking Venture, operating from Southampton to Cherbourg, and the Manx Viking, operating between Heysham and Douglas, Isle of Man, had been affected.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service was maintaining in contact with both sides yesterday, but there was no prospect of a meeting between the management and union.

Some council houses to be for job seekers

By John Withersow

The Prime Minister's appeal for people to search for work away from their homes has been met, in part, with the announcement that from April 1 some council houses will be reserved for those moving to jobs in new areas.

The National Mobility Scheme aims to assist people moving away from centres of unemployment. The project was drawn up by Mr John Stanbury, Minister for Housing and Construction, with the assistance of local authorities representing local authorities.

The Department of the Environment said that about twenty counties have agreed arrangements for moves between districts in the same county.

A small office headed by Mr Ben Affleck is being set up to work out procedures for moves across county boundaries. The scheme envisages making available 1 per cent of council houses for those moving between counties, and according to the Government that would mean up to 200 properties a year.

Our Education Correspondent writes: Confirmation that young people are unwilling to move away from home to find work came in a report, published yesterday, of a research project involving young people aged 17 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Berwick-upon-Tweed, and London.

Despite high unemployment and scarcity of jobs, only 9 of 250 young people involved in the study, which was funded by the EEC, moved away for work.

In each case accommodation was provided by the employer. One reason why so few moved was that unless the employer provided accommodation, it was almost impossible for a young person who wanted to work away from home to find somewhere to live. Young people who carried out the research during 1978-79 said: "The unemployment problem among the young people was 12 per cent in Newcastle, 11 per cent in Berwick. The proportion of girls unemployed was consistently higher than that of boys, ranging from 15 per cent in Newcastle to 12 per cent in Berwick."

Labour EEC plan infantile, says Mrs Williams

By Our Political Editor

In another attack on the decision by the 1980 Labour conference to seek withdrawal from the EEC, Mrs Shirley Williams said last night that it was infantile to believe that Britain could negotiate a trading agreement that would give equal access to the Community after withdrawal.

"She said that on this issue the Labour Party 'is reluctant to live in the real world', just as the Conservatives behaved as if 'economics were divorced from politics and society'."

Britain could not withdraw from the EEC "without massive damage to jobs and to what remains of our industry". But the deeper tragedy, she said, was that the Labour decision was that the Labour Government would destroy in the Community, the only successful base for new international initiatives.

The European Community had sympathy for the Brandt commission's proposals to harness the unemployed resources of the northern hemisphere with the needs of the south, and with Herr Brandt's initiative to try to negotiate a mutual withdrawal of European nuclear weapons.

"Does anyone believe that Britain, economically weak and politically isolated from the European Community and from the many Commonwealth countries who want us to stay in, would be followed by the world's powers if she attempted such policies on her own? These are the politics of delusion," she said.

On Monday he had a discussion with Labour Party officials and visited the House of Lords. He also paid calls on the Tavistock Institute and Chatham House.

Dr Strzalecki is in London on a visit arranged by the Central Office of Information. His object has been to give trade union and political organisations first-hand information about the activities of Solidarity.

Dr Strzalecki is a sociologist in the Department of Sociology, Warsaw, who is a member of the advisory board of Solidarity, the Polish trade union organisation, had talks yesterday with members of the TUC at Congress House, and earlier with Conservative MPs and trade unionists at Central Office.

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Polish sociologist in talks with MPs and TUC

By Our Political Staff

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Weather forecast and recordings

By Our Weather Editor

Forecast for 24 hours ending 21st January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 22nd January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 23rd January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

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Forecast for 24 hours ending 25th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 26th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 27th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 28th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 29th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 30th January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 31st January: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Forecast for 24 hours ending 1st February: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

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Forecast for 24 hours ending 1st February: High pressure over the North Sea, with a cold front moving in from the west. Rain and snow in the north, with some snow in the south. Wind strong from the west. Temperature: 10°C (50°F).

Call to refer 'Times' bid to mergers commission

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Appealing to the Prime Minister to protect what is called "some of the great newspapers of this country" by Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, yesterday sought in vain Mrs Margaret Thatcher's undertaking to refer any bid for Times Newspapers by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He also pressed Mrs Thatcher during Commons question time to undertake to have the commission produce its report with urgency in view of the International Thomson Organisation's decision to cease publishing the papers in March.

Mrs Thatcher would not commit herself. She said that it did not think it advisable to state what the Government would do before any application to transfer ownership had been received, and none had been received. Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, upon receiving such an application, would have to consider the newspaper merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

When pressed, Mrs Thatcher would only say: "We shall apply the law as it is, as apply it precisely."

Mr Foot spoke of the "stomach" of the Times as a newspaper of Fleet acquired by Mr Murdoch. Wh Lord Thomson of Fleet acquired the Times alone that had been referred to the commission's pledges of independence had to be given.

Reference to the commission under the 1973 Act is not automatic, although Mr Foot's supporters say they believe the Government little about the criteria explained by the Department of Trade under that an exception would be made if any bid by Mr Murdoch was not to refer to the commission. The man is in the discretion of Mr Biffen, who is not due to return from India until next Friday.

By Mr Murdoch, who owns the Sun and the News of the World, would require Mr Biffen's consent. And, since the combined average circulation of the merged newspapers would exceed 500,000, under the Act the consent would normally be given only after reference to the commission.

The exceptions arise on question of urgency and economic viability. If Mr Biffen was satisfied that the new papers in the transfer were at economic as going concerns and that the case was urgent, it could give his consent without reference to the commission. Talks progress: Mr Gordon Brunton, chief executive of Thomson British Holdings, said last night that talks were going on with various people and hoped the negotiations would be completed by the end of the month (the Press Association reports).

Mr Harold Evans, the editor of the Sunday Times, said Monday that his "inspired" rather inside-guess was that a decision had already been taken to sell the papers to Mr Murdoch.

However, Mr Michael Clapp, a spokesman for Thomson British Holdings, said: "Every body, including Mr Evans, is still negotiating with more than one person and no deal has been made."

Mr Evans was just guessing. There will be a proper press conference when we have completed our talks. There is a chance that it will be the week.

Parliamentary report, page 9



"The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti" which is to be sold to meet Chatsworth running costs.

Chatsworth Poussin to be sold

By Frances Gibb

The Duke of Devonshire has been forced to sell one of the masterpieces from his famous collection at Chatsworth, a painting by the seventeenth-century French artist Nicolas Poussin, estimated to be worth between £1m and £2m.

The painting, "The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti", which has been in the Devonshire collection since 1761, is being sold to meet running costs on the

estate. It is the first important work to be sold by the present duke.

The duke confirmed last night that the trustees of the Chatsworth settlement had considered a sale to "preserve Chatsworth for posterity". He said he could not comment further until the official announcement.

Important works by Poussin, the founding father of classical landscape (1594-1665), rarely appear on the market. This one, dating from about 1650, is considered a first-class example of the artist's mature work.

The duke has offered the painting first to museums and galleries in the hope that a private treaty sale may be arranged and the work can be acquired for the nation.

But galleries will be hard put to raise the kind of sum the painting is considered worth, and it is likely that it may have to be sold at auction.

The work is now at Christie's, who are expected to make an announcement on Friday.

The painting was shown recently at the Royal Academy as part of the "Treasures from Chatsworth" exhibition, which previously toured six American museums, so potential American buyers have had a chance to view it.

Professor Anthony Blunt, a leading authority on the artist and author of the Academy catalogue, said yesterday that he was very sorry it was to be sold.

"It is an extremely important

work. It is not the most popular kind of Poussin, because it does not have the same romantic appeal as, for instance, 'The Shepherds in Arcadia', but it is one of the very remarkable masterpieces of his later classical period."

One of the highlights of the Chatsworth collection, it was a work which British galleries would wish to acquire. "But I doubt whether English museums would be able to afford it. There would certainly be a lot of American interest."

The only galleries that could even attempt to buy it are the National Gallery, which already has a good collection of Poussins, and the Manchester City Art Gallery. The latter is known to be interested.

Yorkshire MP faces first local party reselection

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

The first reselection conference by a constituency Labour Party will be at Rother Valley, South Yorkshire, where Mr Peter Hardy is the member of Parliament. If the Yorkshire regional Labour Party arrangements go according to plan, submission for reselection will take place in the last spring.

Mr Hardy, a schoolmaster, was elected in 1970. The National Union of Seamen said that the line's Viking Venture, operating from Southampton to Cherbourg, and the Manx Viking, operating between Heysham and Douglas, Isle of Man, had been affected.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service was maintaining in contact with both sides yesterday, but there was no prospect of a meeting between the management and union.

lists would be prepared in the next few months.

The Rother Valley constituency is of particular interest because it was traditionally a mining seat until Mr Hardy, a schoolmaster, was elected in 1970.

Mr Sims hopes the timetable for all his constituencies will be endorsed by the party's national executive committee before August. It may be that many MPs will be reselected without the complication of new nominations, but the process of advertising, reselection and asking for nominations will have to be gone through. It is likely that several reselection conferences will be organized to take place simultaneously.

There are 52 constituencies in the region, and 33 have Labour MPs. Mr Sims said that all party organizations and affiliated organizations who were entitled to nominate candidates were being informed. The sitting MP would automatically be nominated and short-

Tank escapes cuts

Continued from page 1

The Trident missile as the successor to Polaris. That decision, he said, had been taken, announced and would remain. It was the most cost-effective way to provide for our strategic nuclear deterrent.

Savings would be made by selling or scrapping some of the older ships of the Royal Navy and HMS Bulwark would be disposed of about six months earlier than planned. During the next year the Vulcan force and the Shackleton airborne early warning aircraft would be run down ahead of schedule.

The Vulcan squadrons would be reduced from seven to six during the coming year, there would also be an accelerated rundown of the Canberra photographic reconnaissance squadrons.

Mr Nott said the forward warship construction programme would be slowed while logistic support road vehicles planned will also be cut. The Sky Flash Mark 2 missile would continue, but instead of the Sky Flash Mark 2 there would be a programme to develop a new technology for short-range air-to-air missiles.

To save overheads, No 41 Commando would be merged with the other Commandos, but that would not reduce the overall strength of the Royal Marines. Other savings would come from disbanding the

Naval Communications Squadron at Leeson-Solent while the extra Lightning squadron would not be formed as planned. A squadron which could rapidly be made operational.

Mr Nott emphasized the importance placed by the Government on maintaining the front-line capability of Britain's defence forces.

Tornado unaffected: The big procurement programmes, including those for Trident, the Challenger tank and the Tornado aircraft emerge unscathed, to nobody's great surprise (our Defence Correspondent writes).

Among the real surprises is the abandonment of last year's plan to form an extra squadron of Lightning fighters.

The decision to reduce the number of Shackleton aircraft and to drop one of the seven Vulcan squadrons earlier than planned will also be a gap in the RAF's inventory, until the Nimrod and Tornado aircraft are introduced.

The RAF and the Royal Navy have borne the brunt of the spending cuts and particularly the Navy, which is unhappy about the effects on its capability.

Mr Nott would not be drawn upon the replacement plans for the Harrier and Jaguar aircraft. A decision on both is long overdue.

HOME NEWS

Special hospital for young man who admitted killing 26 people and 10 charges of arson

Bruce George Peter Lee, aged 26, of Hull, pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to the manslaughter of 26 people and 10 charges of arson. He was ordered to be detained in a special hospital without limit of time.

The indictment took 25 minutes to read out before Mr Justice Tudor Evans. Mr Lee had pleaded not guilty to charges of arson and murder from June, 1973, to December, 1979. He admitted the manslaughter charges, which involved 10 fires and people aged between six months and 95 years old.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, said that the guilty pleas to manslaughter were tendered on the basis of diminished responsibility. The pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

After Mr Lee had pleaded, Mr Gerald Coles, QC, for the prosecution, told the judge that two medical reports about Mr Lee's mental condition would be put in evidence.

With regard to the 11 charges of arson to which he had pleaded not guilty, it was not in the public interest to incur the expense of a trial in those matters, and the prosecution accepted the pleas.

Mr Coles said Mr Lee was born with a partly paralysed and deformed right arm and was an epileptic. Nor was he a much-loved child. His mother was a prostitute and never cared much for him, which caused much of his unhappiness.

Counsel said the significance of that was that in 1979 he changed his name by deed poll to Bruce Lee.



Peter Lee: "Fire is my master."

to Bruce Lee, partly in admiration of the Kung-fu film actor.

Mr Lee attended school for the physically handicapped until he was 16 and spent much of his youth in care. "It was when he was in care that he says, he was introduced to homosexual practices, which led to his downfall and discovery", Mr Coles added.

Mr Lee clearly had an animal cunning of a remarkably sharp nature. That permitted him to develop in no small scale as a fire raiser, so that for many years not only was he not caught but the fires he caused were ascribed to accidental causes.

"The sad fact is that this is his only real accomplishment in life and something he had expressed himself as being proud of", Mr Coles continued.

The first known fire causing death was on June 27, 1973, but his fire-raising activities went further back. In a statement Mr Lee had admitted setting fire to a shopping arcade causing £17,000 of damage when he was only nine years old.

Mr Coles said that after the first fire which caused death, a sort of pattern for the fires emerged, as far as his method was concerned. The choice of victims was usually random, mindless and totally random, and that was one reason why detection was so difficult.

"He took to buying paraffin and wandering round feeling miserable and depressed. He carried the paraffin with him and when his fingers began to tingle he knew that he wanted to start a fire."

On only about four occasions did motive come into it, because on those occasions the people involved were those against whom he had a grudge, although those grudges were of a trivial nature.

Mr Coles said that perhaps the most appalling fire of all was on January 5, 1977. Mr Lee went to Wensley Lodge, an old men's home, which was really a care home for the elderly. Eleven died in the blaze and six rescuers were injured.

In another statement to the police, Mr Lee had said: "I did the old blokes' home. I got a bike and off I went with my paraffin". He had added: "It was a nasty fire, a really rotten fire I did, and I knew it was going to kill people in there."

Each denied the allegation, until it was the turn of Mr Lee. He replied: "I did not mean it."

Mr Sagar said later: "It was our last hope, and it paid off. I was satisfied he was the one who was without a shadow of a doubt."

Mr Lee had become an adept and cold-hearted fire raiser. Detectives described the fires he was responsible for as "good arsons", meaning the criminal nature behind them was difficult to detect.

More than 18,000 people from the district were interviewed during the inquiry into the fire at the Hasties' home. There were no fingerprints, nothing except a piece of paper near the front door. The paper had been soaked in paraffin. That set in motion the arson inquiry.

Detectives believed paraffin had been poured through the letterbox by the fire-raiser. The police had received 123 allegations from people blaming the Hasties' boys for everything and anything. But Mr Sagar could not believe that any neighbour responsible for such deaths could carry on a normal life afterwards.

When Mr Lee began to talk, the pieces fell together like a jigsaw puzzle.

doors away from Mr Lee. She said: "I knew Lee by sight but not to speak to. I remember he had a crew-cut hairstyle, and his withered hand. He always had a sort of vacant look on his face."

"I knew him as Peter Dinsdale. Everyone used to call him 'Daft Peter'. I used to be frightened of him because of the way he looked at me."

"He put me and my daughter through something we are never going to forget. It was the most terrifying thing I have ever experienced."

There is relief in the community where Mr Lee lived during the last few months with his mother and stepfather. There is sympathy for Mrs Doreen Lee, who has moved to an address near by.

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Imposed law is not sacrosanct, Plaid says

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Plaid Cymru's national council will be asked on Saturday to endorse a policy document which says that party members should be allowed to break the law if the party's aims cannot be achieved through normal constitutional channels.

That is one of the main recommendations of a commission of inquiry appointed to examine the party's declining fortunes. Plaid Cymru's credibility suffered badly as a result of its ill-fated devolution campaign, and its recent results in parliamentary district and borough council elections have been disappointing.

The report says: "While the party should normally operate in a constitutional way within the law, it should not regard laws imposed on us as necessarily sacrosanct, though the party should adhere to its declared total rejection of any activity likely to cause violence to persons."

Plaid Cymru should concentrate during the 1980s on fusing together the forces of nationalism, radicalism and socialism. "It was the bleeding of these elements into a potential dynamic force that was feared by the Tories and helped us lead to their capitulation on the fourth channel issue."

If the commission's report is endorsed the party, hitherto an amalgamation of differing political philosophies, held together by a desire for self-determination, will be cast irrevocably into a socialist mould. The commission favours the establishment of workers' cooperatives, community groups and social clubs of all kinds.

That approach is clearly designed to appeal to industrial South Wales, where the party must make gains if it is ever to become a real political force in the principality.

Ticket discounts and heavy advertising revolutionize Festival Hall ratings Hard sell makes Philharmonia top of the pops

By Martin Huckerby Music Reporter

The orchestral popularity ratings at the Festival Hall in London seem almost certain to change substantially this year because of the Philharmonia Orchestra's success with its new subscription scheme. Last year the Philharmonia had the poorest audiences of the four independent London orchestras; this year it looks like having easily the best.

When Riccardo Muti brings Stravinsky's Rite of Spring to its shattering close on Sunday night the orchestra will have virtually sold out every concert so far this season; 12 consecutively.

In the last financial year audiences at the hall for the four orchestras averaged 73 per cent, and the Philharmonia managed only 71 per cent. But

the introduction of season tickets with discounts of up to 25 per cent has meant that half of each house for the orchestra has been sold in advance.

Heavy advertising, with the aid of sponsorship from Du Maurier, and some concerts with very popular artists such as James Galway and Yehudi Menuhin, have done the rest.

Popularity may not necessarily reflect orchestral quality, since hackneyed programmes of the most popular music can guarantee high attendances, but topping the poll can make a big difference to an orchestra's financial health.

The other orchestras might be expected to envy the Philharmonia's success but there is no sign of their starting subscription schemes.

The London Philharmonia said that from September to

November last year the Philharmonia was averaging just over 90 per cent paid attendances (complimentary and similar tickets make up the rest) while the other three were all about 65 per cent.

It thought the Philharmonia had probably poached audiences from the other orchestras but since then attendances had improved.

The London Symphony said it was unlikely to start a subscription scheme at the Festival Hall, although it certainly will use such schemes when it begins regular seasons at the Barbican Arts Centre next year.

Nor did the Royal Philharmonic expect great interest in the idea; it tried a subscription scheme some years ago and obtained 16 members.

Launching a scheme is undeniably expensive and since

concert attendances overall seem to have picked up in the last couple of months (the Festival Hall said they were probably running at about 1 per cent higher than last year), the pressure on orchestras to take drastic action has slackened.

Mr Christopher Bishop, managing director of the Philharmonia, was delighted that no one else wanted to compete to sell season tickets. He said his ambition was to sell the whole house every night on subscription, and then to start repeating each concert.

In London there are a series of rehearsals and then usually just one concert; elsewhere in Britain, and in most other countries where there are fewer orchestras and less competition, each concert is repeated, sometimes several times. The financial benefits are great.

Admissibility of government undertakings may be crucial issue at airfield inquiry

From John Young Planning Reporter Guildford

The admissibility as evidence of past government actions and undertakings appeared likely to become a crucial issue at a public inquiry which opened in Guildford, Surrey, yesterday.

The inquiry is into an application to reopen the disused Wisley airfield for general aviation. Objectors say that provision made for airlines or for those aircraft normally associated with airlines.

The company would seek a general aviation licence to serve the needs of business and corporate customers. It would be a so-called ordinary licence, as opposed to a public licence, and so would allow the airport management to control its use.

By 1985 it would be necessary to provide for the needs of those who would no longer be able to use Gatwick. Mr Fitzgerald said. The British Airports Authority had indicated that before that time it would have to "evict" many of the present general aviation users and that small aircraft movements might need to be

restored to the land for agriculture strengthened their determination not to allow the airfield to reopen.

Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC, for the applicants, Jenstate, sought yesterday to reassure those who feared that Wisley might develop into London's fourth airport.

There was no intention of introducing scheduled services, he said. There will be no provision made for airlines or for those aircraft normally associated with airlines.

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reduced to about half the present level of 15,000 a year.

The company was conscious of the urgent need to do something to meet business aviation requirements, he added. It saw the Wisley site as ideal and it expected its proposed course of action to be held as a responsible one and as a positive step to assist the economy.

It became clear yesterday, however, that Mr Fitzgerald's claims were not shared by either the BAA or the Civil Aviation Authority.

In evidence to the inquiry to be heard later the BAA suggested that general aviation activity at Wisley would be detrimental to the flow of air traffic using both Heathrow and Gatwick airports and might have an adverse effect.

The CAA acknowledged that if pressure was put on general aviation at those airports then the needs of business jet users would be badly served. Wisley could help to fill that gap.

But most flights to and from Wisley would be within controlled air space shortly after take-off and until a late stage before landing.

£100,000 gift to aid research

From John Chatter Manchester

A cheque for £100,000 to help to establish a fellowship for research into crippling diseases was handed over yesterday to the acting Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, Professor Dennis Welland.

Sir Harry Platt, aged 94, Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery at the university, after whom the fellowship fund is being named, expressed pleasure that such research would be undertaken in the part of England that he regarded as the birthplace of modern orthopaedic surgery.

The research fellow will operate within the university's orthopaedic department at Hope Hospital, Salford.

The cheque was presented by General Sir Victor FitzGerald-Balfour, chairman of Action Research, and it is likely to be followed by a target of at least £50,000 from an appeal directed mainly at industry in the North-west, launched yesterday by Sir George Kanvon, treasurer of Manchester University.

Classic product of a broken home

Detectives are convinced that the arrest and conviction of Peter George Lee has saved Hull from at least another decade of fires causing loss of life and damage to property.

There was no sign that Mr Lee's appetite for fire-raising was on the wane or that the death toll of 26 in the blazes he started had shocked him into sanity.

He was born Peter Dinsdale and called himself Bruce Lee after his kung-fu hero, and had told the police: "I am devoted to fire. Fire is my master and that is why I caused these fires."

He even quoted the Bible verse—Matthew 6, 24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

Mr Lee is the classic product of a broken home, spending years of his early life in local authority care.

In an early interview Det. Supt. Ronald Sagar sympathized with him on his upbringing. Mr Lee said: "I have always known I was not dragged up along the right lines. I was kicked from pillar to post."

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HOME NEWS

Kent's 12.3% rate rise
bodes ill for
Mr Heseltine's hopes

By Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

Kent County Council announced yesterday a rate precept increase of 12.3 per cent for 1981-82, giving a clear indication that general increases are likely to be substantially above the levels hoped for by the Government.

The increase, which will mean a rate rise of 14.7 per cent for Kent householders if the district councils in the county raise their rates by a similar amount, conflicts with the Government's inflation allowance of rises of about 7 per cent, made up of 6 per cent for pay and 1 per cent for prices.

Since Kent, the first to set its rate, has followed government guidelines on spending cuts—in fact, it has set a budget 56m below its entitlement under the grant-related spending assessment—and has benefited from the new block grant, the indications are that rate rises generally will be well below the Government's guidelines.

After his announcement of the rate-support grant last month, using the new block grant system, Mr Heseltine suggested that if councils followed the Government's guidelines rate increases should be very small, even nil.

In general the counties did well from the grant settlement at the expense of the cities,

where much larger increases are expected.

But councils throughout the country have become anxious as their treasurers work out what is needed, and an emergency meeting of the joint consultative council on local government finance is to be held tomorrow to discuss the matter.

The erratic workings of the new system are illustrated by the likely rate increases in other county councils. For Cambridgeshire the increase is understood to be about 10 per cent, with a little spending over the assessment; Hertfordshire is likely to put its precept up by 9 per cent, spending £3.4m over its assessment; Somerset by 6 per cent with an overspending of up to £2m; and Buckinghamshire by 13 to 15 per cent, spending £9m over the assessment.

In the past two years Kent has cut its county council staff by about 50,000 by 3,000 without compulsory redundancy, and now has a policy of careful scrutiny before filling any vacancy.

Sir John Grugeon, leader of the council, said yesterday that the budget reflected the 3 per cent cut in spending by the Government. "We are moving steadily and rightly into a policy of retrenchment," he said, "looking at new ways of solving old problems at lower cost."

Pressure for
safeguard
in mental
health Bill

By Lucy Hodges

MIND, the mental health pressure group, is fighting for a safeguard to be included in the new mental health Bill being prepared in Whitehall.

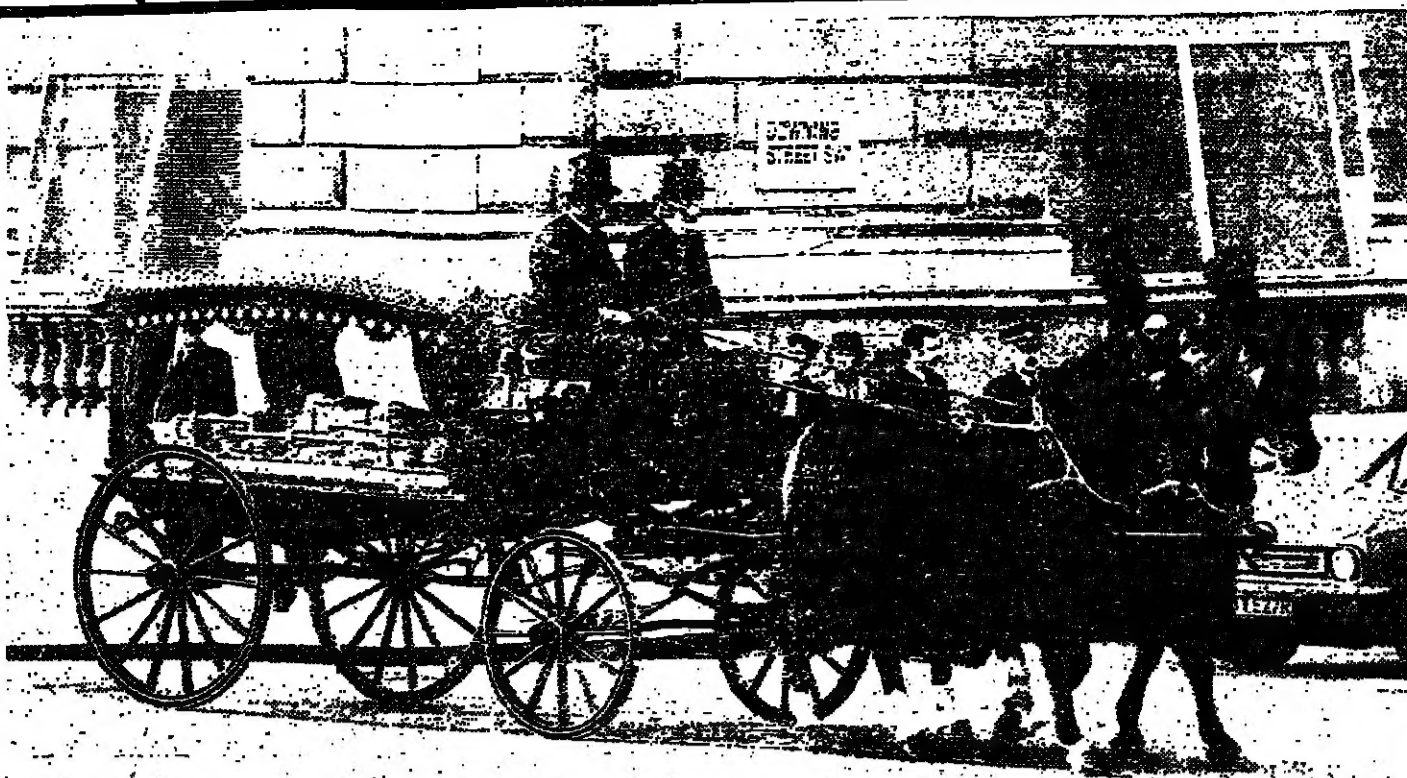
The issue concerns a patient's right to refuse treatment, which MIND thinks is one of the most important aspects of any re-drafting of mental health law.

The group is meeting Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, on Monday to press for the White Paper's commitment on consent to treatment to be included in any new law.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is known to be unhappy about the proposal on consent to treatment in the White Paper produced in 1978 by the former Labour government.

That said, hazardous, irreversible or not fully established treatment, could not be given without the consent of the patient, except to save life. Even when the patient did consent, treatment might be given only with the agreement of an outside review body.

The White Paper said that a second opinion would come from a many-discipline panel established by the area health authority and it should be sought when there was any doubt about whether a particular treatment was dangerous, irreversible or not fully established.



A hearse in Downing Street yesterday carrying a petition for a rise in the £30 death grant.

Hostage 'shot trying
to protect friend'

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

One of the hostages in the Iranian Embassy siege in London told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he was shot as he tried to protect a friend from terrorist gunfire when members of the Special Air Service Regiment attacked the building.

Mr Akmed Dadgar, a diplomat, broke down as he recalled the incident and his injuries. The man he tried to save died.

A few minutes after the shooting, the court was told, one of the terrorists was shot by the SAS as he clutched a hand grenade. Others who took part in the shooting were killed later by the SAS as they sat against a wall. One received multiple wounds and the other died from a bullet in the back of the neck.

Mr Dadgar, giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial of Fowzi Nejad, aged 23, who has pleaded not guilty to two charges of murder, said that he and his friend entered the room where the hostages were.

The terrorists closed the door and began firing. Mr Dadgar added: "As soon as I saw them shooting I tried to cover my friend." He and Mr Ali Akbar Samadzadeh, his friend and a student who worked part-time at the embassy, attempted to duck down behind chairs as

the terrorists sprayed the hostages.

Mr Dadgar, who entered the court with the aid of a walking stick, told Mr Justice Park that he received one bullet through the lung, another just below the heart and one in each hip. At that point he slumped back saying: "I am not sorry for myself." Later the court was told that Mr Samadzadeh died.

After the shooting, Mr Dadgar said, the hostages told the gunmen to surrender. One of them, Mr Nejad, tried to use a hand grenade as a hostage told him to stop.

A statement read to the court from Mr Fawzi Khasbazi said that shortly before the end of the siege one of the terrorists wrote a note to Police Constable Trevor Lock, the policeman captured by the terrorists, in which he said he was going to escape and save the hostages, and asked for a safe conduct.

Mr Richard DuCann, QC, for the defence, said that it was admitted that Faisal, the second in command of the terrorists, was shot by the SAS. He said the men ran out of the room where the hostages were held still holding a hand grenade and had been shot.

The trial continues today.

Seat on pay body for
non-striking teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government's much-leaked decision to give the Professional Association of Teachers a seat on the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

He also said he was increasing the number of representatives of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers from six to seven.

Those changes still leave the National Union of Teachers with half the seats on the 33-member teachers' panel. The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which remains its single seat, almost always votes with the NUT, so that union will retain an overall majority.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said that it was clear all along that the Professional Association of Teachers, which refuses to take part in any strike would be included on the committee "for purely political reasons". In his

view the association, which has 20,000 members, was too insignificant to merit a seat.

The association will be present at the meeting today of the Burnham teachers' panel, the first meeting in the new pay round. It will recommend a 6 per cent pay rise for teachers from April 1, plus 2 per cent from September 1.

"We are making this realistic recommendation to protect the jobs of our members and to offer some hope of employment to student teachers," Mr Peter Dawson, the association's general secretary, said. Anything above the 6 per cent allowed for by the Government would result in further teacher redundancies, he said.

The local authorities have not yet decided what they will offer the 470,000 teachers. Individual authorities have suggested everything from minus 1 per cent to 6 per cent. It is most unlikely that they would go higher than that.

It has been estimated that every 1 per cent increase in the teachers' salary bill of £3,550m could cost about 4,500 teachers' jobs.

Left-handedness in boys
linked with breech births

From a Staff Reporter
Manchester

A research worker at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology has found indications that the most probable causes of left-handedness are breech delivery of a male child or a woman aged 39 or over giving birth for the first time.

An examination of records of births to 2,670 women at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in 1971 has shown that while boys are more likely to be left-handed than girls (19.9 per cent, against 13.6 per cent), as many as 40 per cent of boys born by breech delivery were

left-handed, although that method of delivery had no significant effect on girls.

The other outstanding finding was that 43 per cent of first children of both sexes born to women aged 39 or over were left-handed.

The research was carried out by Miss Carol Jeffery while working for MSc degree. It was summarized in a paper written in collaboration with Dr James Smart, of Manchester University department of child health, and Professor Bernard Richards, of the computer department of Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology.

Liberal urges Labour dissidents to act

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A sharp reminder that Liberals see themselves as the cutting edge of any new alliance with social democrats was given last night by Mr Alan Belth, the Liberal Chief Whip. And he suggested that the "big names" among Labour dissidents did not soon make up their minds, they would find their constituency supporters had already joined the Liberals.

Speaking at Derby, Mr Belth conveyed the disappointment shared by senior Liberals that

last weekend's opinion poll had been widely seen as acclaiming Mrs Shirley Williams' leadership. In fact, the poll produced its leading 31 per cent for an alliance between the Liberals and a social democratic grouping led by Mrs Williams, which is a joint venture.

Mr Belth pointed to 50 seats where Liberals, now in second place, were within reach of victory. "There are no seats which any new social democratic party looks at all likely to win," he remarked. "The potential strength of any new

In brief

Kent motorway
plan approved

The Government yesterday announced its approval for the 8.6-mile section of the M25 London orbital route between Swanley and Sevenoaks, in Kent, which has been fiercely opposed on environmental grounds.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said that the decision had been a "particularly sensitive one, but the advantages of the route outweighed the disadvantages."

Protest by disabled

Twenty handicapped people refused to attend a free pantomime held for the International Year of Disabled People at the Key Theatre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, yesterday after complaining that there were insufficient facilities for wheelchairs and walking frames.

Baby has pacemaker

A week-old baby has been given a heart pacemaker in an operation at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds. Richard Andrew Brightmore, who has a congenital heart block, is believed to be the youngest person to have such an operation.

Journalists get 16%

Journalists at The Daily Telegraph yesterday accepted a pay offer yielding average increases of almost 16 per cent. The average salary will be £12,915 from next July.

Water action threat

Union delegates representing 2,000 water and sewerage workers in Greater Manchester Lancashire and Cumbria yesterday voted to reject the employers' 7.9 per cent pay offer and to take industrial action.

Shoppers pay again

Debenhams' store in Southampton had an overwhelming response from shoppers after it appealed to them to replace about £80,000 of cheque and credit card receipts stolen on December 20.

Waste Council goes

The abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council and the National Anti-Waste Programme was confirmed in a Commons written reply yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

Maw sister pregnant

Charlene Maw, aged 18, of Bradford, who with her sister Annette is serving a prison sentence for the manslaughter of her father, is expecting a baby in the summer.

BR investigate theft

British Rail yesterday began an investigation into the theft of £52,000 in foreign currency from a train after the conviction of two men at Nottingham.

Ivory Madonna stolen

A carved ivory figure of the Madonna and Child from the seventeenth century has been stolen from a plinth above the altar at Canterbury Cathedral.

Tobacco price rise

The price of most Carreras Rothmans cigarettes will rise by 4p for 20 from today.

Garage men and 16 policemen on 65 summonses

Sixteen police officers and four garage directors were accused at Hertford Magistrates' Court yesterday of bribery and corruption.

The case arises from an inquiry into allegations of bribery from garages. The inquiry was centred on a traffic bus at Carston, near Watford. The policemen, including a woman constable, and the directors faced a total of 65 summonses. None of the defendants appeared.

Old Vic actor disappears

By Martin Barker
Theatre Reporter

The Old Vic Theatre has run into trouble again. It has had to postpone the opening of its production of Vanbrugh's Restoration comedy, *The Relapse*, because one of the actors has disappeared.

Previews of the play were due to start last night, but on Monday the theatre received a telegram from Barry Woolgar, who was due to play Loveless, one of the leading roles, which said: "I can't go on—cannot cope with the part. As a result last night's and tonight's performances were cancelled and the first night was postponed until next Tuesday."

So the theatre has found a new actor for the part, Richard Kay, who is the younger brother of Mr David Kay, the company's vice-chairman. He is hurriedly learning the role, ready for the first preview tomorrow night.

The Old Vic said yesterday that it was aware that Mr Woolgar had been under some strain, but had not realized that anything was seriously wrong.

Pension rise may
be cut below
rate of inflation

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Pensioners rose last November by 1 per cent more than the rate of inflation since the previous pension increase, the December retail prices index figures have confirmed.

That will pave the way for the Government to implement its proposal to reduce the pension increase to the rate of inflation by 1 per cent below the estimated inflation rate.

If the Government does go ahead, it will mean a new Bill, possibly before the Budget, and a political argument, since pensioners rose by about £1 a week less for a single person and £2 a week less for a married couple than they would have done under previous legislation.

The Government's intention was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said in November that because of a more rapid decrease in the inflation rate there had been an "over-provision" of an estimated 1 per cent in the pensions increase that month. It was proposed to deduct that from the 1981 increase.

Confirmation of the inflation rate between the last two pension increases had to wait for the December price figures because 54 weeks elapsed between them. That meant that the November figures alone were not sufficient to confirm the inflation rate at the time of the last increase.

In addition, the November pensions increase was lower because the Government changed the law to drop the link with earnings increases and refused to make good the shortfall last year.

Both points will be raised with MPs in what is expected to be a mass rally outside Parliament on March 4, which has been designated "national pensioners' day" by the TUC-sponsored National Pensioners' Convention.

British Movement 'quartermaster' jailed

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

A member of the extreme right-wing British Movement who stored guns and ammunition in his home and distributed racist stickers was jailed for seven years by a judge at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Roderick Lewis Roberts, aged 27, of Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham, was said by the prosecution to have been the quartermaster for a 20-strong branch of the British Movement in the West Midlands.

He pleaded guilty to 10 charges of possessing firearms and ammunition, an arson charge arising from an attack with a smoke device on a Job Centre office in Birmingham, and was found guilty of illegally acquiring a Mauser

pistol and conspiracy to stir up racial hatred.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution, said that weapons, including a Sten gun, an anti-riot gun, revolvers and pistols, were found in a pigsty at Spetchley, Worcestershire, the home of Mr Roberts' parents.

Harvey Stock, aged 40, of Woodbrooke Road, Bournville, Birmingham, who was described as the group's press officer, received a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years, for conspiring to stir up racial hatred and arson.

Another British Movement member, Robert Giles, aged 25, of Church Street, Bicester, Oxfordshire, who told detectives he believed in the principles and teachings of Adolf Hitler, received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for carrying an offensive weapon, a flick knife, and con-

spiring with Mr Roberts to acquire the Mauser pistol.

Reginald Cox, aged 36, a gun dealer, of Carlton Terrace, Burnwood, Staffordshire, who supplied Mr Roberts with most of the guns, was sent to prison for eight years. That included a five-year sentence for sexual offences against nine girls.

Ian Fraser Gilmore, aged 27, gun dealer, of Charter Close, Norton Canes, Staffordshire, received a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, for illegal possession of firearms, and Harold Simcox, aged 33, a former National Front candidate, of Grace Road, Tipton, West Midlands, received an 18-month sentence, suspended for two years, for stealing from his employers, Webby and Scott, the gunmakers, was jailed for two years.

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WEST EUROPE

Forlani coalition faces mounting industrial unrest as partners bicker over lack of coherent policy

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 20

While the hunt goes on for the kidnappers of Judge Giovanni d'Urso, Signor Arnaldo Forlani's Italian coalition government faces a period of mounting social and industrial tension.

Though the judge's release has temporarily eased the strains among its four components—Christian Democrats, Socialists, Christian Democrats and Republicans—over how to deal with terrorism, fresh challenges have come from the public services and the steel and chemical industries.

The public has felt the discomfort of a strike by pilots of Alitalia and of widespread electricity blackouts. About three-quarters of the national flag-carrier's pilots, grouped in an independent trade union, are claiming annual salary increases ranging from 18m to 30m lire (£7.825 to £13.040), while the company is reported to be offering 3m to 4m lire (£1.300 to £1.740).

Alitalia had to cancel most foreign and domestic flights, operating a few skeleton services with pilots belonging to the national trade union confederations.

Both public and industry are being subjected to more severe electricity cuts than ever before, mostly staggered over 90-minute periods in different parts of the country.

Power consumption has risen, during one of the hardest winters for years, while production is virtually static and the possi-

bilities of importing power from Switzerland and Austria are limited. Enel, the national electricity board, has given warning that the situation can only worsen.

Successive governments have produced a number of national energy plans over the years, providing for the building of nuclear and conventional power stations, but these have mostly remained a dead letter, and partly through lack of drive and partly from local opposition on environmental grounds.

The simmering crisis in the nationalised steel industry has come into the open with the resignation of Signor Ambrogio Puri as chairman of Italsider, the country's biggest producer, with an annual output of about 10 million tons. He alleged lack of support for rationalisation efforts from Signor Gianni De Michelis, the minister for state-owned industry.

The Republican Party has come to Signor Puri's defence, calling in a statement for a "coherent and planned government policy" for companies, like Italsider, which represent the backbone of industry.

Signor De Michelis is a Socialist and once again "big brother" thinking that would mean more favourable terms. They also want to avoid being left out, along with Spain, if their neighbour's application runs into trouble in Brussels.

It was the Socialists under Dr Mario Soares's premiership in 1977 who began the approaches to Brussels. But now their motion of "no confidence" criticises the Pinto Balsemão Government for proposing more privatisation and increased competition, the powers of the Portuguese's economic backwardness and paved the way for EEC entry.

The Socialists, now in opposition, are unwilling to let the communists win all the political advantage if anti-EEC feelings arise from the economic hardships being suffered by the Portuguese—steep price increases at the new year are estimated to have reduced the purchasing power of basic wages by as much as a quarter.

Behind the conciliatory language about "institutional solidarity" exchanged by the President and the Prime Minister, the powers of the Presidency look like being the most difficult problem to tackle in constitutional reform.

President Eanes is not the kind of man to give way easily and the December election results showed there is popular support for the way he interprets his constitutional role.

The Socialists have declared their objection to reducing the President's powers now they are in opposition. Their support is crucial for the two-thirds majority the coalition needs to muster for any constitutional reform. The Government has little margin for manoeuvre, and is aware of the danger of a future election pledge to curb the semi-presidential system.

Portugal facing daunting tasks

Oil costs and drought threaten economy

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 20

The outcome of the debate on Portugal's new Government, which began today is not in doubt. By the end of the week its parliamentary majority will have easily voted down the Socialists' "no confidence" motion and approved the Government programme.

But there are three main problems for the new Administration to face—reform of the 1976 Constitution, the worsening economic situation, and negotiations for entry to the European Community.

Unfortunately the world depression considerably complicates the task of developing the country's frail economic structure and at the same time adapting it to EEC competition.

Decisions like the Opec oil price rises in Bali last autumn and the lack of winter rains over much of Portugal's north-east and Alentejo in the south are far more important for the country's economy than any government programmes or declarations in Brussels.

Because of the Ball decision, Portugal, which has to import 83 per cent of its energy requirements, found its petrol bill shooting up from about 250m last year to about £1.250m this year. If the rains do not come in the next month, filling the reservoirs and dams and saving livestock, there will be power shortages as well as increased food imports.

This will worsen balance of payments difficulties, and Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, said on taking office it would "not be convenient" to increase any further the country's "very high" foreign debt, which this year is 70,000m escudos (£530m).

In the present world depression it is becoming increasingly difficult to export enough to pay for imports—let alone modernise the country for EEC entry.

The new Government has created a new Ministry for European Integration, with Senator Alvaro Barreto, an American-trained business executive, taking charge of the negotiations with Brussels.

Señor Suárez in strong position to face critics

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

The confident survivor of two general elections, a vote of censure and a vote of confidence, Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, is expected to reaffirm his tenacious hold on the party apparatus of his Centre Democratic Union (UCD) when the party holds its second congress next week in Palma de Mallorca.

As the congress draws closer, it becomes more apparent that critics in his party have no chance of unseating him as secretary-general through the expedient of separating the party leadership from the Prime Minister's office. The critics are in the minority and the most they can expect to gain from the congress is a sympathetic ear.

While there is widespread concern within the party that voters are losing interest, there is reluctance at the top to heed the critical sector, which is more conservative than the main body. At the congress it may be possible to determine whether such reticence is the result of sound judgment about the attitudes of the electorate or whether it is merely a recurrence of the phobia on the part of Señor Suárez and his closest advisers towards adopting any position which might recall their previous loyalty to the dictatorship.

The challenge from the right within the party comes mainly from the Christian-Democrat sector; and it has had the effect of closing the ranks between the left and centre.

Some of the more pragmatic members of the Prime Minister's party realize that accommodation of the right must be effected within the UCD; otherwise the conservatives and the voters who support them could easily drift to the Popular Alliance (AP) headed by a former Interior Minister and ambassador to London, Professor Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

The Madrid Government's deputy in the Basque country, Señor Marcelino Oreja, one of the founders of the "Técito" group of Christian Democrat reformists, which burst on the political scene in the latter days of the Franco regime, is tipped as a potential peacemaker, since he shares the right-wing rebels' ambition to democratize the internal structure of the party without sharing their wish to replace Señor Suárez. Señor Rafael Martín Villa, the Minister for Territorial Administration, held "private conversations" in the Basque capital of Vitoria last weekend with Señor Oreja. A pro-Suárez man, Señor Martín Villa probably has more political strength in the coming congress than any other leader of the party.

Lonely task for only woman in French poll

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 20

Mme Marie-France Garaud, the one-time adviser to President Pompidou and M Jacques Chirac, is waging a tough battle in the presidential elections for her ideas, if not for herself, and has no chance of beating the political heavyweights she has chosen to take on.

She is fighting without the backing of a party or a well organized political machine, without a ready-made platform, without substantial funds, and without the advantage of being a man in this politically still misogynist country, but with more than a common dose of courage and conviction.

What is important for her, she told a luncheon of the Anglo-American Press today, is to ensure that the political debate to which the campaign gives rise is clear and real; and that the main protagonists are driven out of the nebulous positions in which they have so far entrenched themselves.

She could not tell at this stage what was the policy of either President Giscard d'Estaing or M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader.

In 1974, the President had fought the elections on national independence and economic recovery and she had supported him. But since then, his stand abroad endangered French independence and his economic policy was a flop.

What was Mitterrand's stand? He had stood for the



Mme Garaud: Trying to lift the level of debate.

union of the left. Now he was marking his distance from the Communists. He had approved the stationing of American SS20 missiles on European soil; but in December, at the Madrid conference of the Socialist International, he had approved its neutralist positions.

"I am not sure what the President's policy is. How then can he average Frenchman have

any clear idea of its objectives?" She asked: "I want these elections to serve some purpose, and I am beginning to see some small results for my efforts already in terms of the language which is being used. M François-Ponsard (the Foreign Minister) is much more cautious about détente. M Chirac has clarified his stand on foreign policy."

Daughter opposes Picasso handover

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 20

One of Pablo Picasso's daughters thinks Spain is not democratic enough for his civil war masterpiece, "Guernica", to be hung in a Spanish museum; and her attitude could delay the handing over of the painting to the Spanish Government by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Madrid newspaper *El País* said today.

The daughter, Maya, born to his French companion Marie-Thérèse Walter, is the only close relative of Picasso who is known to oppose delivery of the painting to Spain. In an interview published in *El País*, she says, "My father would not have approved of this transfer."

Picasso painted the big canvas to call the world's attention to the devastating dive-bomb attack on the Basque town of Guernica by Hitler's Luftwaffe which supported General Franco during the civil war. He always said that it was dedicated to the Spanish people, and should be placed in their custody once the republic was reestablished and democratic freedoms were assured.

Since last October the painting has been awaiting shipment from the New York museum in Madrid in accordance with Picasso's wishes, confirmed by the family's lawyer, M Ronald Dumas in 1977. No explanation for the delay has been offered

by either the Spanish Government or the Museum of Modern Art, which has been keeping the picture since 1939.

The Spanish authorities would like to hang the painting in the Casón del Buen Retiro, an annex of the Prado museum in Madrid, this year, the one hundredth anniversary of Picasso's birth in Malaga. Exhibitions and events throughout Spain are scheduled to commemorate the centenary.

The painter's daughter says in the interview, that her father spoke of the return of the republic, whereas Spain is now a monarchy.

She also feels that there is not enough freedom yet. She objects to the fact that there is no divorce law in Spain, and she is not satisfied with the legal status of illegitimate children.

"We cannot speak of democracy in Spain," she says, "as long as the Army and the police of the old regime are retained."

According to *El País* there is a remote possibility of the case going to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Officials of Spain's Directorate of Fine Arts are to talk over the matter again later this week with Picasso's widow, Jacqueline, his children, Marina, Paloma, Claude and Maya, and his grandson, Bernard.

Snow closes tunnel

Chamonix, Jan 20. Heavy snow over the French Alps forced the closure of the Mount Blanc road tunnel to Italy. Skiing resorts in the area of Val d'Isère were cut off.

El Al manager beaten

Copenhagen, Jan 20. The manager of the Copenhagen office of the Israeli airline El Al was beaten and seriously injured last night. His office was daubed with swastikas.

Can you win if you come in third?

In a comparative study of railways in nine Western European countries, in terms of productivity* per man, Holland was first, Sweden second and Britain third.

Holland and Sweden, however, have much smaller and more modern rail networks than Britain.

Therefore, if we look at the 'big league' railways, Britain actually was number one.

Victory? Sadly, no. For this bare statistic, though well worth stating, does not reveal the whole picture. There is much room for improvement.

THE PAY AND PRODUCTIVITY DEAL OF MAY 1980

This fact was recognised in the Pay and Productivity Deal of May 1980. This far-reaching deal, concluded with the three rail unions, recognised the need for change in many sectors of British Rail's activities.

Described by a top union leader as "One of the toughest sets of negotiations I have ever known", it opened the door to reductions in manning levels, plus other improvements in efficiency in the freight and parcels businesses and other sectors.

These changes are estimated to save a total of £60 million (in 1980 prices) by 1983. Both management and unions are urgently considering how to accelerate this process. It is absolutely essential to the long-term health of the industry.

THE NEED FOR REDEPLOYMENT

From the railway community's point of view, there are other important facts to

be considered. British Rail employees stand lower on the industrial ladder than their European counterparts—on basic pay rates British Rail is at present a low wage business.

Yet British Rail is not a low wage-cost railway. As the study also shows, railwaymen in this country work longer hours than their European counterparts.

The solution to this problem is to alter out-of-date methods of working and to redeploy manpower resources on a continuing basis. There are, after all, a large number of unfilled railway vacancies at present.

A GOOD DEAL, BUT WILL IT BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION IN TIME?

There's plenty going for it. Consider, for instance, British Rail's impressive labour relations record compared with other UK industries.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a massive rationalisation of British Rail's business, achieved with remarkably little friction. In the last 15 years, there has been a reduction of 150,000 posts with 31,000 going in the 1970's—at a time of rising unemployment which was not exactly a helpful background to achieve reductions on this scale.

British Rail's staff know full well that, with increased efficiency, the railways can command success.

In 1979, passenger sales mileage was actually higher than in 1961 when the network was 30% larger and there were only half as many cars on the road.

CHALLENGING THE CRITICS

British Rail's fares and charges are higher than other railways in Europe. Critics can (and do) cite overmanning and other inefficient uses of resources as the main reason for this.

They are wrong. The main reason for high charges is that British Rail is expected to operate with a far greater self-financing ratio than any other major railway in Western Europe.

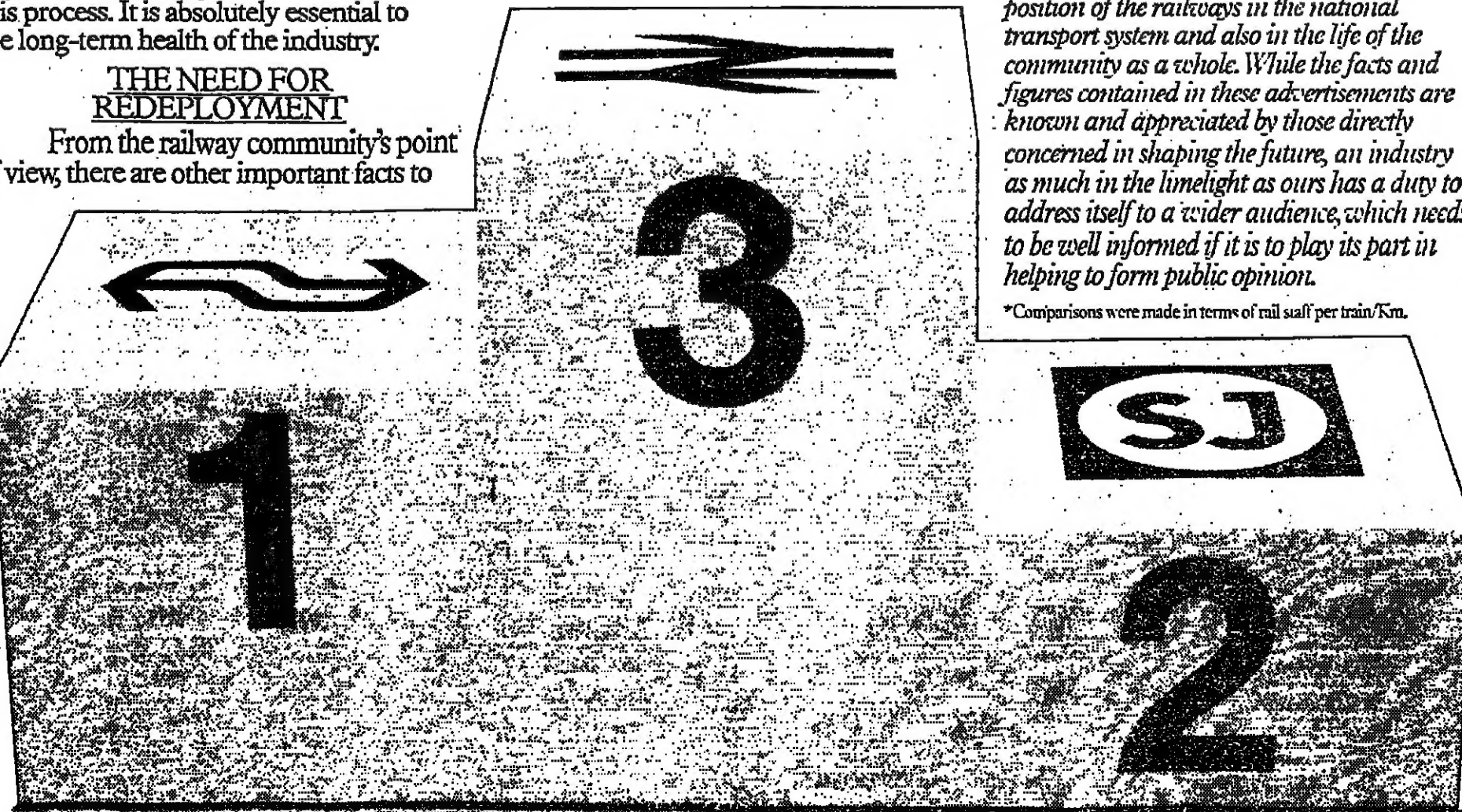
By continuing to improve productivity, British Rail can remove a major excuse for ignoring the real problem facing the railways—the need for a realistic financial framework.

Increased investment will achieve further improvements in productivity and thus raise public confidence in the economics of the rail business.

And secure the right role for the railways in the wealth creating process.

This is one of a series of advertisements designed to increase public awareness of the position of the railways in the national transport system and also in the life of the community as a whole. While the facts and figures contained in these advertisements are known and appreciated by those directly concerned in shaping the future, an industry as much in the limelight as ours has a duty to address itself to a wider audience, which needs to be well informed if it is to play its part in helping to form public opinion.

*Comparisons were made in terms of rail staff per train/km.



This is the age of the train

OVERSEAS

Threat of ban forces black newspapers to close in S Africa

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 20

South Africa's two most popular black newspapers, *The Post* (Transvaal) and *The Sunday Post*, have been forced to close down because the Government has threatened to ban them if they resume publication.

Both papers ceased publication last October when editorial staff members of the black union Media Workers' Association were in support of colleagues involved in a labour dispute on *The Cape Herald* newspaper.

When the strike ended just before Christmas, the Government told *The Post* owners, the Argus Publishing Company, that registration of the papers had lapsed under the terms of the Internal Security Act.

Today the company was informed by Mr Christian Heunis, the Interior Minister, that although the Government could not by law prevent the publishers from applying for registration, it would ban the papers if this was done.

Mr Hal Miller, managing director of Argus, said the Government had told him it had decided some time ago to ban the two newspapers, but the decision had not been implemented because the strike had kept the papers off the streets. No reason was given for the decision.

Because of the strike, registration of the newspapers had lapsed. Argus applied immediately either for the Government to condone the lapse in registration or for the papers to be registered.

Mr Miller said the company had decided not to proceed with the application for registration because "we see no point in making a futile gesture by insisting on registration and then submitting to the injustice of actual banning."

This is the second time in just over three years that the Government's axe has fallen on what is the only effective mass medium of black opinion in South Africa. *The Post* had an average daily circulation of

112,000 with an estimated 907,000 readers. *The Sunday Post* had a circulation of about 118,000 and an estimated readership of 1,200,000.

The two papers' predecessors, *The World* and *Weekend World*, were banned in October, 1977, along with 16 Black Consciousness organizations. Shortly before their closure Mr James Kruger, the then Minister of Justice, had complained about a leading article in *The World* about the death in police detention of Mr Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader.

Although *The Post* was not as outspoken as *The World* had been, it nevertheless stood firmly in support of black interests and was often robust in its criticism of the Government's race policies.

The editor of *The Post* and *The Sunday Post* was Mr Percy Qobusa who had previously been in charge of *The World*. He spent several months in detention after the latter paper was banned. Last week Mr Qobusa, who is presently in the United States, announced that he was resigning as the editor of the two papers.

The closing of the two papers was widely condemned today. Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said he was distressed that the Government still refused to learn that banning a newspaper would "not ban the thoughts and feelings of a nation."

Star said that the government's action would "not freeze the political turmoil in the townships, nor will it give any government more time to find a solution. Instead the move will aid extremists and discomfort many moderates."

Several commentators noted that the Government's stand has come at a time when a full-scale investigation into the press is being carried out by the Commission of Enquiry. Steyn Commission. Mr Rex Gibson, editor of the *Sunday Express*, said the move showed how little confidence the Government had both in the commission and the concept of press freedom.

Commercial whaling stopped by Russia

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 20

In a significant step towards a total ban on commercial whaling, the Russians have announced that their fishing fleet in the Far East has stopped whaling and converted its flotillas into floating fish processing bases.

The Russians, together with the Japanese, are the only two countries still engaged in whaling on a large scale, and both have come under strong pressure from conservationists at international whaling conferences.

Tass announced last week that the Soviet Fleet in the Far East, the principal base for the country's fishing industry, would henceforth catch only "several" whales each year, to satisfy the needs of the few inhabitants of the extreme north-east of Siberia.

The ban is part of an extensive programme for nature conservation. Vast tracts of the almost uninhabited Kamchatka peninsula, the island of Sakhalin and the region around Vladivostok have been proclaimed reservations and sanctuaries, complementing the first Soviet maritime reservation in Peter the Great Bay, off Vladivostok.

The far eastern centre of the Soviet Academy of Science is drafting guidelines for putting into effect in Siberia the national decrees on conservation over the next 10 years, while local authorities have sharply increased their appropriations for nature protection.

Recently the Russians announced that, thanks to a ban on hunting in the Bering Sea and the far north, the walrus population of the east Siberian seas has multiplied almost a half since the past twenty years. Scientists are making aerial surveys to determine the true numbers.

In the northern seas of the Arctic region the hunting of seals and sea animals is already subject to strict quotas, and satellite photographs are used to see that they are enforced. Leading article, page 15



Taking the oath: Watched by his wife, Mr Reagan is sworn in as the next President.

Mr Reagan uses words of Kennedy

Continued from page 1

Mr Reagan, we are told, wrote much of his speech himself after studying those delivered by his predecessors. One of the striking features of John Kennedy's inaugural speech, another used key words from Jimmy Carter's.

"Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on earth. The price for this freedom has at times been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price."

That was a close paraphrase of Kennedy. A moment later, addressing Americans directly, calling them heroes, he said: "We shall reflect the commitment that is so much a part of your make-up. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen? And loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick, and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal not just in theory."

Mr Reagan also paraphrased

Winston Churchill, this time naming his source. "I did not take the oath I have just taken behind a curtain of secrecy, over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy."

After the ceremony, President Reagan and Vice-President Bush attended a dinner in the Capitol building offered by Congress, and former President Carter left for Plains, Georgia. He was welcomed home by a street party arranged by townspeople and left two hours later.

He returned to Washington, to join the delegation that is flying to Wiesbaden tonight to meet the hostages.

Soviet greetings. President Leonid Brezhnev sent a telegram of congratulations to President Reagan on his inauguration and called for "constructive cooperation" between the United States and Soviet Union (UPI reports from Moscow).

Chinese reminders. Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Premier, sent a telegram to the new President apparently reminding him to keep relations with the Nationalist Chinese Govern-

ment on Taiwan unofficial.

"During your tenure of office, the relations between China and the United States will continue to develop and the traditional friendship between our two great peoples will grow in strength steadily on the basis of both sides firmly abiding by the principles of the communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries," he said.

The United States severed relations with Taiwan when it established diplomatic relations with China on January 1, 1979. In other messages of congratulations, President Sandro Pertini of Italy said: "The duties which you are confronting are the most serious and your responsibility is and will be before the eyes of not only your people but also the entire world."

President Giscard d'Estaing of France said: "At the moment of your accession to the presidency of the United States, I send you my warmest wishes for the success in your high mission."

Moment of truth for Mr Reagan at the presidential inaugural gala

From Michael Leppman
New York, Jan 20

At the end of last night's two-hour inaugural gala, the presidential equivalent of a Royal Command variety performance, Mr Ronald Reagan stepped on to the stage at Washington's Capitol, the inaugural sports stadium where the gala was held.

He disclosed to the 19,000 spectators that many friends had asked him in the past few days whether the fact of becoming President had really sunk in.

"Tonight," he said, "there was a point in the programme where I leaned over to her [his wife Nancy] and said: 'It's sunk in.'"

Maddeningly, he did not reveal what that point was. It could have been when Rich Little, the American answer to Mike Yarwood, did a fine impersonation of him. Or when he said a number of old-time crooners made alterations to the lyrics of standard songs to turn them into tributes to

the next President and first lady.

The programme, which had been put together by Frank Sinatra, the oldest-time crooner of them all, reflected the unadventurous conservatism which has already become the hallmark of the new President.

It was filled with moments of cloying sentimentality that only Americans know how to carry off without self-consciousness.

Ebner-Meyman, the singer, who at 72 is even older than Mr Reagan, set the tone with some changes to the words of "Everything's coming up roses."

"You'll be swell," he trilled, "You'll be great"—and in a later version "You've got nothing to do but relax."

Mr Reagan was certainly doing that, laughing broadly at the jokes about the Carters, about Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, and about jelly-beans, which, as all the world knows, he loves.

He and Mrs Reagan, in a black gown with a regal train, sat on a raised dais in two blue armchairs, a secret service man in evening clothes standing behind each of them. The first couple looked like the king and queen in *Hamlet*, watching the players.

Patriotic moments abounded appropriately, though it was probably a mistake to ask Marie Osmond, who has difficulty in pronouncing the letter "r" in "America, arise again."

Another piece of high emotion came when America's only surviving five-star general, Omar Bradley, who is nearly 88 and chairbound, was wheeled on to the stage by James Stewart, the actor.

Frank Sinatra, occupied the last quarter of an hour, singing about Washington, D.C., and explicitly altering "Nancy with the laughing face" to "Nancy with the Reagan face," a less attractive lyric. Nancy Reagan laughed anyway and blew Frank Sinatra an elegant kiss.

It had sunk in.

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EEC sends envoy on Middle East tour

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 20

The EEC is to press ahead with its attempt to play an independent peace-making role in the Middle East and at the same time to see the support of the new American Administration for what the Community is trying to do.

At their first meeting since the Christmas break, EEC foreign ministers, including Dr Christoph van der Klauw, their Dutch colleague, to undertake a new round of visits to Middle East capitals and to make an interim report to the next EEC summit meeting in Maastricht on March 23 and 24.

Dr van der Klauw has been asked to put what senior officials described as "a series of questions" to Arab and Israeli leaders to clarify in more detail their response to the declaration on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict issued by the EEC last June in Venice.

A first sounding of reaction was undertaken last August and September by Mr Gaston Thorn. In one of his last tasks as Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Thorn has since taken over the presidency of the European Commission from Mr Roy Jenkins.

Dr van der Klauw's mission is seen largely as a holding operation to keep Arab interest in the EEC's diplomatic activities alive, until such time as the attitude of the new United States Government has clarified.

The Americans have hitherto said that they consider the Camp David talks between Egypt and Israel as the only workable approach to a peace settlement. They disagree with the EEC that the Palestine Liberation Organization needs to be actively involved in the studies.

It is already clear that if the outgoing Carter regime to the EEC initiative turns into open hostility under President Reagan this will deal a death-blow to the Community's hopes of playing an effective role.

Although France and one or two other EEC member states might want to press on even in the face of strong American opposition, it appears that the majority, including Britain, would regard such a policy as empty posturing serving no practical purpose.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who was one of the main authors of the Venice declaration, is understood to take the view that a large part of the EEC's role must be to influence the American capital with Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, on February 25.

Dr van der Klauw's soundings will begin in mid-February with a meeting with Mr Cheddi Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, in The Hague. He will then set off for Israel where he is also hoped to visit the occupied Arab territories.

Other stops on Dr van der Klauw's tour will be Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He will also visit Washington, and have talks with PLO leaders.

Wall of silence: An investigation into the killing of three Senegalese United Nations soldiers in south Lebanon was kept in a "wall of silence," a United Nations spokesman said today. (Reuters reports from Tel Aviv).

He said: "This was a cold-blooded murder. They were shot in the back at short range but nobody is willing to talk."

A Filipino soldier wounded in a clash with PLO men on Friday died yesterday.

Soviet fury at Japan's islands claim

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Jan 20

The Soviet Foreign Ministry today called in the Japanese Ambassador to protest at Japan's decision to proclaim February 7 the "Day of the Northern Territories," as part of the country's campaign for the return of the South Kurile Islands, occupied by the Russians since the end of the Second World War.

In the latest denunciation in Moscow's war of words with Tokyo, the Russians also protested against what they called Japanese propaganda on the territorial issue.

The ambassador was told that this and his Government's plans to include the question of the northern territories in the Japanese school curriculum constituted "unfriendly actions" towards the Soviet Union. They were seen in Moscow as a deliberate attempt to aggravate Soviet-Japanese relations.

A Tass report said the Foreign Ministry warned the ambassador that Japan was undermining the positive results in Soviet-Japanese relations, and the Soviet Union would draw the "appropriate conclusions."

The ministry statement said Japan had to understand that wherever steps it took "artificially to stir up the non-existent territorial issue," the Soviet stand was unchanged. It added, "A disloyal action which does much to explain why Japanese relations with the Soviet Union are now so bad."

"No territorial issue exists in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. This has been repeatedly stated by the Soviet side to Japanese leaders."

The establishment of good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union, rather than the laying of groundless territorial claims, would in the opinion of the Soviet Union, meet the interests of Japan itself and the cause of ensuring security in the Far East and the whole of Asia.

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The Knesset Speaker interrupted today's debate, advising Shaikh Jaber to pledge loyalty to the new deputy, contrary to Knesset tradition, nobody shook Shaikh Jaber's hand as he was guided by an usher to his seat.

Israeli believe the danger of a blood feud between two communities was averted when Prime Minister's adviser on minority affairs, visited Abu Rabiha elders last week and persuaded them that a vendetta against the Druse people was folly. He said the Druse people had been misled by the King of Shaikh Abu Rabiha and Shaikh Jaber was, moreover, a controversial figure in the community.

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El Salvador attack on guerrillas

El Paisal, El Salvador, Jan 20.—Governments in El Salvador counter-attacked leftist guerrillas in an attempt to thwart any big onslaught to coincide with Mr Ronald Reagan's inauguration in Washington.

The authorities say the guerrillas, who launched an offensive 10 days ago to topple the country's civilian-military junta, are angered by the renewal of United States military aid to El Salvador.

Official sources say the Army is advancing on the guerrillas' rural strongholds. An underground hideout for 150 people was captured by the Army yesterday near the village of El Paisal. Fifteen guerrillas and four soldiers were killed—Reuters.

Muhammad Ali talks man out of suicide

Los Angeles, Jan 20.—Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, pulled a man, apparently intending to commit suicide, from a ledge on the ninth floor of a building last night after talking to him for half an hour, police said.

The boxer went to the building after a friend telephoned him to say that a 21-year-old man, who was not identified, was standing on the ledge and asking to see the former champion—Reuters.

Solidarity officials reject Walesa appeal to work

Gdansk, Jan 20.—Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish trade union leader, urged members of his Solidarity organization today not to strike for work-free Saturdays and said he would hold the Government responsible for any further clash over the issue.

Mr Walesa was reporting to the organization's national consultative commission on what he described as four hours of tough talks with Mr Jozef Piskowski, the Prime Minister, in Warsaw last night. Mr Walesa told delegates to act with prudence and avoid confrontation.

It was his first public speech in Poland since he returned yesterday from a six-day visit to Italy and the Vatican. In his absence, the Solidarity branches in Warsaw drew up plans for strikes on Thursday and Friday to press for a 40-hour, five-day working week.

Mr Walesa, who was criticized for holding talks with Mr Piskowski, said that the talks were for the workers' benefit. He said the Prime Minister had repeated government undertakings to discuss the question of free Saturdays.

Despite Mr Walesa's appeal not to strike, the Solidarity executive today called on members not to work this Saturday.

In a motion passed in Gdansk today, it was recommended that workers strike on Saturday. It was added that once the principle over Saturdays was recognized, Solidarity members could work certain Saturdays to permit the recovery of the Polish economy.

Solidarity is also seeking increased access to the media, the freeing of seven "political prisoners" and changes in the meat rationing system—Reuters and Agence France-Press.

Mr Kim's final appeal

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, Jan 20

The South Korean Supreme Court will rule on Friday on an appeal against the death sentence on Mr Kim Doo-jung, the leading South Korean dissident, Mr Kim's lawyers said today.

This will be the former presidential candidate's final appeal before he places his fate in the hands of President Chun Doo-hwan who will have to decide whether the politician, who is 50, will be hanged or given a life term.

Nine months ago, Mr Kim was regarded as a potential future president on the basis of

his showing against the late President Park Chung-hee, in the last direct presidential election in 1971. But after the student rioting last May, the military imposed martial law throughout the country and Mr Kim was among the first to be detained. While he was in jail, the authorities accused him of fomenting a civilian uprising in the southern provincial capital of Kwanju.

The court martial found him guilty in September of leading a communist organization favouring North Korea and of attempting an insurrection.

He was sentenced to death for his role in the 1971 insurrection. He was released in 1974 but was arrested again in 1975 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

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IRAN HOSTAGES

Embassy elation turns to apprehension as delay follows delay

From Ian Murray
Algiers, Jan 20

Throughout a long, nail-biting day officials at the American Embassy battled to keep smiling as the frustrating details of the long series of delays came through from Iran.

After the elation of yesterday, when Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, signed the agreements which were meant to bring about the release of the hostages, the mood slowly changed to apprehension.

After a relaxed afternoon yesterday Mr Christopher had been told of difficulties being raised over the financial arrangements and immediately called a meeting of experts.

Among those called to the embassy was Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, the central bank approved by both Iran and America to hold freed Iranian assets while the hostages were being released.

The experts worked in the details throughout the evening and into the early morning and it was not until 3 am that Mr McMahon left the American Embassy for his bed at the British Residence.

Mr Christopher snatched three hours sleep and left shortly before 9 am in the big cream embassy car for the Foreign Ministry and a long session with Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister.

Worried that any leak of information might upset the release of the hostages, none of the Algerian, American or British experts were prepared to say anything.

The Algerians grew increasingly worried. For the people of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria the

central role of their diplomats and ministers has become a matter of great national pride. The newspapers, *El Moudjahid*, leads proudly today on the news of the agreement with stories headlined "President Carter renders homage to Algeria" and "The most spectacular of modern times".

People in the street stopped journalists, wearing the special pass issued by the Ministry of Information, and asked for the latest news. "It is a great moment for our country," they say. "We are so proud and happy that they are coming home."

There is further pleasure in the fact that Algerian doctors were in charge of checking the condition of the hostages and that the hostages were due to be flown out of Tehran on board two red and white Air Algérie Boeing 727s.

There has been growing concern from people making inquiries. "We do hope nothing is going wrong," they say. "Do tell us they will still be coming here."

At the American Embassy the one person oozing confidence and good humour has been Mrs Yolande Haines, the Ambassador's wife, a Haitian and former Paris fashion model. She runs the cash desk in the embassy canteen adjoining the courtyard at the front of the building. There she makes out the cheques for the hostages, the cash and the coffee consumed by the press corps and embassy staff in growing quantities.

At the airport the domestic arrival area allocated to receive the hostages, has been blocked off with railings for the past two days, with only a handful of television and radio technicians allowed through.

Britain sends two more diplomats to Tehran

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Two diplomats have flown out from London to Tehran to strengthen the British interests section of the Swedish Embassy there, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

The British complement is now four: Mr Edmund Barratt, a First Secretary, who has been in Tehran throughout the recent crisis, joined by Mr David Brett, an Administrative Officer in November, and now Mr Christopher Rundle, a First Secretary, and Mr Robert Mansfield, a Third Secretary, who was in the British Embassy before it was shut down last September.

The reason for increasing the size of the British interests section, the Foreign Office said, was "to cope with Britain's residual responsibilities in Iran".

It was emphasized yesterday that the decision to send out the two diplomats was not connected with the release of the American hostages, or with the four British citizens in detention. Naturally the freeing of

the four Britons remains their first priority.

On his return to London from Brussels last night, Lord Carrington said that if economic sanctions were removed, there would be much more for British diplomats to do in Tehran. The increase in British representation was also designed to help the four detainees.

He very much hoped that after the expression of support of the European Community, the Iranians would appreciate the strength of European feeling on the matter, and release the British detainees, whom they knew to be innocent.

However, the arrival of the diplomats is far from signalling a return to "full friendship" with Iran, or even normal relations.

The British Embassy is shut, and is likely to remain so while the four Britons are held without charges or consular rights. But the risk of British diplomats being seized as seemed quite possible at one time, is now judged to have receded.

EEC to lift sanctions imposed last May

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 20

EEC Foreign Ministers today welcomed the "release safe and sound" of the American hostages and said that the trade and economic sanctions imposed by the Community on Iran last May were "no longer called for".

In a separate statement, at the request of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, the ministers also said they were looking to the Iranian authorities "to accelerate the release" of the three British missionaries and a businessman held without charge.

Lord Carrington has made it clear that he regards the problem of the British detainees as being separate from that posed by the American hostages, to whose fate the trade sanctions were specifically related.

Arms sales to Iran are regarded by the EEC as coming in a different category from general trade, and member-states will decide individually what to do. In Britain's case any Iranian request for arms or spare parts will be considered, on their merits, but it is most likely that they would be met so long as the four British citizens are held and the war between Iran and Iraq continues.

The trade sanctions against Iran never had much more than symbolic effect since they applied only to export contracts concluded after November 4, 1979—the day when the hostages were seized. Even that limited degree of retroactive application was reneged on by Britain because of a revolt by the House of Commons.

The sanctions thus conveniently left untouched the bulk of current trade with Iran, which in any case had fallen to a low level because of the disruption caused by the Iranian revolution. Despite sanctions British trade with Iran in the first 11 months of 1980 was in fact 70 per cent higher at £368m than in the same period of 1979.

Aside from lifting trade sanctions, the Community will also restore normal diplomatic relations and the visa requirement introduced for Iranians wishing to visit EEC countries will also be withdrawn.

The ministers said that they had always fully respected the independence of Iran and the right of its people to determine their own future.



A yellow ribbon being tied round an old oak tree outside an American hospital in Wiesbaden, as urged by the old soldiers' song, to show the returning hostages that their girls still loved them.

Family liaison group keeps spirits high

Washington, Jan 20.

Founded as a self-help group for families of the American hostages in Iran, the Family Liaison Action Group (FLAG) has developed into a corporation with offices in Washington, a board of directors, a newsletter and a sizeable bank account.

"Having this organization creates the emotional bond that all families share with each other," Mrs Louise Kennedy, who helped to found the organization last March, said. "It made it easier to keep your chin up."

FLAG's purpose is to help the families of the 52 American hostages, to keep them informed of recent developments, to help them to deal with the news media, to answer their questions and keep them abreast of hostage ceremonies and events.

The office receives 80 calls a day from civic groups and institutions that want to do something to help. Since last summer the organization has raised more than \$150,000 (more than £65,000) from donors.—AP.

Retaliation by Washington caused hardship for ayatollah's enemies

Washington, Jan 20.

American retaliation for the seizure of the embassy staff in Tehran brought hardship for many of the 250,000 Iranians living in the United States.

Yet there were few instances of violence. There was a torrent of angry words on radio talk shows, which have become America's safety valve. There was some ridicule of all things Iranian.

By and large, the 250,000 Iranians in the United States lived in peace. Even the few thousand who used the streets of America to vent their political rage against America, were able to march in peace, if sometimes with heavy police protection.

Still, many Iranians here were affected by American actions, and some feel those actions have left a legacy of bitterness.

President Carter took action specifically intended to affect the estimated 70,000 Iranians who were in the United States on student visas. He ordered businessmen, professionals and government officials who, even

before the Shah was overthrown, had fled to the United States.

An Iranian who wanted to go home to see his dying father, Mr Carliner said, was told it would take 45 days before he could leave if he wanted advance permission to return.

Five Iranians who were University of Idaho students on a field trip to Canada on the day President Carter acted were denied readmission to the United States.

Mr Carliner, who acts for the American Civil Liberties Union, is a member of the national advisory council of Amnesty International and author of *Rights of Aliens*, said the United States failed to distinguish between Iranian critics and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Thapaliap, he said, resulted in "harsh feelings towards the United States on the part of people who are going to become the business leaders, professionals and government leaders in their own country someday".—AP.

gration and Naturalization Service for visa checks to see if they were in the country legally.

Civil liberty groups contend that there was no legal one nationality, but the Supreme Court upheld the President's action.

"It is not only a violation of civil liberties, but ludicrous," Mr Joseph Rauh, a veteran civil liberties lawyer, said at the time. "If it would bring one hostage home one minute sooner, one might consider it. But it won't bring one hostage home. You don't answer the outrage of the ayatollah (Khomeini) by mistreating people in your own country."

President Carter's second act was to invalidate all visas issued to Iranians for entry into the United States. Those here would not leave and come back, separated families could not be reunited in this country.

The consequence, says Mr David Carliner, an immigration lawyer, was hardship for hundreds of pro-American Iranian businessmen, professionals and government officials who, even

City lawyers overcome final hitch on assets

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

The final hitch over the American hostages was resolved yesterday thanks to the activity of a firm of City solicitors acting for Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank.

The firm, Stephenson Harwood, who had been acting for the Iranians over the matter of blocked Iranian funds in subsidiaries of American banks in London, put forward fresh proposals on how to calculate interest on Iranian deposits.

A statement from the solicitors issued last night said that Stephenson Harwood's involvement in this matter arose after the Carter freeze in 1979. It acted for several Iranian banking clients including Bank Markazi over the legal issues arising from the freeze of Iranian deposits.

This, says the firm, "caused serious indeed unprecedented legal and banking problems for the City of London and the international financial community. The firm is very pleased that together with the other advisers concerned including several firms in the City its work over the past days and nights has contributed to the settlement now reached."

One of the main firms of solicitors acting for the Americans is Coward Chance, another City firm. Stephenson Harwood is one of the largest firms of solicitors in the City.

Meanwhile, another part of the complex financial operation went smoothly yesterday. The Bank of England confirmed that billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets had been transferred by the United States into an Algerian escrow account in the name of the Bank of Algeria. The funds were to be transferred in an Iranian account as soon as the hostages had been released.

Thatcher hope for Britons

Mrs Thatcher told the House of Commons she hoped release of the hostages "will augur well for release of our own people".

She said the Government continually tried to secure access to British subjects, including missionaries, held in Iran for five months "without any charge against them".



Final hurdle: Mr Carter, in almost his last act as President, signs the document that finally secured freedom for the hostages.

Sterling rise anticipates move of unfrozen funds

By Frances Williams

The pound followed Monday's rapid ascent against the dollar with further gains yesterday, amid speculation that part of Iran's unfrozen dollar assets will be diversified into sterling. In fairly quiet trading it rose 1.25 cents to close at \$2.4195, after touching \$2.4250 early in the day.

Its effective exchange rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, ended the day at 80.2—matching the five-year peak reached in the first week of November.

The dollar was fairly steady against continental currencies but weakened against the yen, another currency thought likely to benefit from diversification of Iran's dollar holdings.

The overall steadiness of the dollar reflects market views that Iran is unlikely to diversify out of dollars on a large scale. It is seen as needing dollars to engage in international trade and to repay its debts. In addition, high dollar interest rates make holding the American currency attractive.

Your chance to give the Royal Navy a hard time.

Aberdeen University, Monday 9 February
Aberystwyth University College, Wednesday 4 March
Aston University, Thursday 22 January
Bangor University College, Tuesday 3 March
Bath University, Monday 2 March
Birmingham University, Thursday 12 February
Birmingham Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
Bolton Institute of Technology, Thursday 29 January
Bradford University, Thursday 5 February
Brighton Polytechnic, Wednesday 4 February
Bristol University, Friday 27 February
Bristol Polytechnic, Thursday 26 February
Cambridge University, Tuesday 17 February
Cambridge College of Art and Technology, Wednesday 18 February
Cardiff University College, Thursday 5 February
Cranfield Institute of Technology, Thursday 29 January
Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Thursday 5 February

Dundee University, Wednesday 11 February
Dundee College of Technology, Wednesday 11 February
Durham University, Tuesday 24 February
East Anglia University, Thursday 12 February
Edinburgh University, Thursday 5 February
Exeter University, Wednesday 18 February
Exeter University, Wednesday 25 February
Glasgow University, Friday 6 February
Glasgow College of Technology, Thursday 5 February
Hatfield Polytechnic, Monday 9 February
Heriot-Watt University, Monday 2 February
Huddersfield Polytechnic, Wednesday 28 January
Hull University, Wednesday 18 February
Keele University, Tuesday 27 January
Kent University, Thursday 19 February
Kingston Polytechnic, Thursday 5 March
Lampeter University College, Thursday 5 March
Lancaster University, Tuesday 20 January

Lancaster Polytechnic, Tuesday 20 January
Leeds University, Friday 30 January
Leeds Polytechnic, Thursday 29 January
Leicester University, Monday 26 January
Leicester Polytechnic, Tuesday 27 January
Liverpool University, Thursday 22 January
Liverpool Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
London University, Friday 20 February
London University College, Friday 6 March
City of London University, Thursday 19 February
Brunel University, W. London, Tuesday 10 February
Imperial College, London, Monday 9 March
Queen Mary College, London, Tuesday 3 March
Central London Polytechnic, Monday 2 March
City of London Polytechnic, Monday 16 February
North London Polytechnic, Tuesday 10 March
North East London Polytechnic, Tuesday 24 February
South Bank Polytechnic, London, Thursday 5 March
Thames Polytechnic, London, Monday 9 February
Loughborough University, Wednesday 25 February
Manchester University, Wednesday 28 January
Manchester Polytechnic, Tuesday 27 January
Middlesex Polytechnic, Tuesday 10 February
Newcastle upon Tyne University, Tuesday 17 February
Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Wednesday 18 February
North Staffordshire Polytechnic, Monday 19 January
Nottingham University, Thursday 26 February
Oxford University, Wednesday 28 January
Oxford Polytechnic, Thursday 29 January
Paisley College of Technology, Thursday 5 February
Plymouth Polytechnic, Thursday 26 February
Portsmouth Polytechnic, Thursday 19 February
Preston Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
Reading University, Wednesday 25 February
Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Tuesday 10 February
Salford University, Thursday 29 January
Sheffield University, Wednesday 4 February
Sheffield Polytechnic, Tuesday 3 February
Southampton University, Monday 26 January
St Andrews University, Tuesday 3 February
Stirling University, Thursday 12 February
Strathclyde University, Wednesday 4 February
Sunderland Polytechnic, Wednesday 25 February
Surrey University, Wednesday 4 March
Sussex University, Monday 2 February
Swansea University College, Tuesday 3 February
Teesside Polytechnic, Thursday 19 February
Trent Polytechnic, Friday 27 February
Wales Polytechnic, Wednesday 4 February
Warwick University, Wednesday 21 January
Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Tuesday 20 January
York University, Tuesday 17 February

On the date shown above a Royal Navy Officer will come and visit your university or polytechnic.

He will be there to describe at first hand what he thinks the Navy can offer you.

You will get his impressions of life as a Pilot, an Observer, an Engineer, a Seaman Officer, a Royal Marines Officer, a Supply and Secretariat Officer, a Submariner, an Instructor Officer or a WRNS Officer in the Royal Navy.

And perhaps a few humorous tales of shore leave in the world's ports.

You will probably have one or two questions, and our Officer will do his level best to answer them. If he can't he will find out and let you know.

Be as tough on him with your questions as you like. The more you know about the Navy the better you can make up your mind about it.

To fix a time for a down-to-earth chat, check with your Careers Adviser, or write to Cdr J. Exworthy RN, Officer Entry Section (9CC1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE. **ROYAL NAVY OFFICER**



IRAN HOSTAGES



American soldiers preparing to put up a welcome banner at the Rhine-Main Air Force base, West Germany, where the hostages were expected after their release from Iran.

Embassy seizure used as weapon to destroy Iranian middle class

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Jan 20

One of the painful ironies of the hostages' release is that the man who really brought it about was no friend of the United States.

President Saddam Hussein does not even allow the Americans to maintain an embassy in the Iraqi capital, but it was his military assault across the Shatt al-Arab river towards Abadan that finally persuaded the Iranians to start serious negotiations for the release of the 52 American diplomats.

You cannot win wars without spare parts and foreign credit and so the hostages began their journey home as sole beneficiaries of one of the decade's most unnecessary conflicts.

Given the events of the past fourteen and a half months, it was perhaps only fitting that a crisis which ended inside Iran more than it did any coherent international policy should have ended in so mundane a way.

For if the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran had demonstrated Iran's contempt for American power, it became almost immediately a weapon in the hands of those who wished to destroy the Iranian middle classes who had played so important a part in overthrowing the monarchy.

While the United States and most of the Western world debated the implications of Iranian demands for the return of the Shah and his wealth in the late autumn of 1979, they failed to realise that the embassy takeover had served other purposes.

It broke the government of Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the gentle but almost totally ineffectual Prime Minister whom Ayatollah Khomeini appointed in the aftermath of the Revolution and then, in the succeeding weeks, it destroyed much more devastatingly other bourgeois figures of the revolutionary struggle.

The Islamic students who occupied the embassy began to unearth confidential documents from the embassy files which allegedly proved the connivance of leading Iranian politicians with the American CIA.

They led to the arrest of Mr Amir Entezam, the former Deputy Prime Minister in the Bazarzang Government and to the flight of Mr Moghadam-Maraghi, the leader of the Radical Party.

The former head of Iran's nationalised oil company had to leave the country and several *Majlis* (Parliament) deputies were later forced to resign their seats.

The incriminations stretched to the leftist parties and even, in a vague but none the less real, to Ayatollah Khomeini's rival to Ayatollah Khomeini.

He hoped that the release of the 52 Americans would not generate "any negative effect on Gulf security", adding: "We should not precede events. We do not think there is anything for us to fear. But we have to be cautious."

The Saudis and Gulf states want to know if there is a secret price to be paid by the United States for the hostages' release. If this is true—and if it is to be paid in extra war material for Iran—then the Gulf war could grow in intensity.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which tried to mediate between Tehran and Washington in the early days of the Embassy takeover, expressed the hope that yesterday's events would "serve the cause of peace" in the Middle East.

Less charitable words came from President Sadat of Egypt who let it be known—through an American Congressman—that the United States had been "vacillating, contradictory and wavering" in dealing with Iran over the hostages. According to a transcript of his meeting with Mr James Baker, the Democratic Representative for New York, Mr Sadat felt that the Americans should have "gone in there (Iran)".

Mr Sadat, who gave the late Shah his final place of exile, has not previously commended or American attempts to release the hostages.

The embassy seizure was therefore used to consolidate power in the hands of those clergy who were faithful to the man who led the revolution. The condemnation of the United States as the "Great Satan" and the unfavourable evidence of American interference in Iranian affairs—though no less genuine in its utterance or effect—was secondary to this process.

The hostages helped to cleanse the Iranian revolution of its middle classes and, when they had served their purpose, it was inevitable that one day they would be released.

It is equally inevitable, now they have been freed, that they will be treated as a reminder of Iran's idealistic, semi-visionary and impractical foreign policy. Those representatives of the middle classes who survived the purge have already laid the foundations for this shift.

Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the newly retired Foreign Minister, for example, repeatedly warned Iranians against Soviet interference in their country, brusquely expelling a Soviet Embassy official for spying last summer.

Only last week, clerical voices could be heard murmuring similar suspicions about Soviet ambition in Iran. It was not by chance that the Iranians permitted Afghan demonstrators to attack the Soviet Embassy compound three weeks ago.

If Iran now enters a period of self-imposed isolation, therefore, the Russians can expect some of the odium previously shown towards the United States to be directed at them. In this sense, the Soviet Union has become a loser now that the hostages crisis is over and the Americans can no longer be embarrassed on a daily basis.

The parties of the left in Iran have already been forced underground and the pro-Moscow Tudeh Communist Party—which has studiously avoided any sentiment of Ayatollah Khomeini—is unlikely to go into sudden opposition.

Clearly some new instrument of power will have to be found by the religious and lay groups jockeying for position in Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeini's health has taken on the qualities of Mao Tse-tung's in the years before his death—he is constantly reported to be weakening and ever more constantly making a robust appearance before his visitors—but everyone in Iran is aware that the old man is unlikely to live much longer (he is once said to have predicted his own death by assassination in 1981).

The forces now competing to fill the vacuum that he will leave are only too evident in the streets of Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeini's rival to Ayatollah Khomeini.

The future of the Iranian oil industry, the 20,000-ton Kharg lying in the River Tyns and held by a Department of Trade embargo, was still uncertain last night, the subject of highly sensitive political negotiations.

The highly armed ship, with no crew on board, is being towed by the Walker Yard of Swan Hunter, which built the vessel to the order of the late Shah of Iran. The ship was launched four years ago by a relative of the Shah, a member of the Pahlavi family, and took longer to complete than expected because of various changes in specification that were requested.

The ship was handed over by British Shipbuilders last April and accepted by the owners, the Iranian crew went on board but the sailing was halted when the Department of Trade refused to grant an export licence as a result of trade sanctions against Iran decided by EEC foreign ministers in retaliation for the seizure of the American hostages. The situation is now complicated by the fact that the Iranians are holding a number of British people.

The Iranian crew were on board for the final fitting-out of the ship and then in September last year were summoned back to Iran. Since then, the ship has been deserted, with security checks being carried out by the Tyns Harbourmaster's Department.

Conference sources said the ministerial meeting, which began last Thursday night, complete its work tonight. Some delegates here have said they believe that if Iran disposes of the issue of the American hostages, it might be inclined to use the summit platform to put its side of the conflict with Iraq.

Reference sources said there was fear among Gulf countries that the agreement on freeing the hostages could increase Iran's military potential by unblocking thousands of millions of dollars in Iranian funds frozen by the United States.

The sources said there was, heated debate over Afghanistan in a subcommittee considering a draft declaration which will be a key document to be laid before the summit.

Ayatollah Beheshti who has by dint of almost Machiavellian principles gained control of both the legislature and the judiciary in Iran.

He effectively undercut President Bani-Sadr's executive power when he insisted that the President's choice of Prime Minister should first gain the endorsement of his Islamic Republican Party. It is around Mr Bani-Sadr's head that the vortex of power is likely to whirl more fiercely than ever now that the hostages have gone home.

It will suit America if Mr Bani-Sadr survives this power struggle. The United States believes that lay politicians rather than the clergy can bring stability back to Iran—and stability is something that both the Americans and the Russians earnestly want to see restored to the country.

Since Mr Bani-Sadr is now commander-in-chief of the Army in its war against Iraq, it is equally in America's interest to have the Iranians bring the conflict to the Gulf to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Whether the United States has some hand in encouraging President Bani-Sadr's ambitions (the conspiracy theory of history will inevitably maintain that it did), President Reagan is in a position to give substantial aid to Mr Bani-Sadr.

Spare parts for Iranian weapons and the Iranian Air Force's over-extended fleet of Phantom fighter-bombers would be just the first example of such assistance.

Just how this help could be given is another matter. It is inconceivable that the Americans will be able to retake possession of their Tehran embassy in the near future. It is inconceivable that they would want to.

The Stars and Stripes will not fly over Tehran for many months yet, unless the new American Administration embarks on some vengeful and unthinkable military adventure against Iran.

It is just possible that a neutral embassy could contain an American interests section and that such an office could restore and maintain the economic links between the United States and Iran without the induction of political friendship. The Americans really will have to resist the temptations of involvement in Iranian affairs but contact there will have to be as even the Iranian clergy must be privately aware.

If the country's devastated oilfields can be repaired by other nations, the hard currency to pay for this industrial renaissance will have to come from the United States.

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The receiver can be set to receive only the teacher's voice, or the background noise which is heard in the classroom and playground as well. Giles is not a deaf child whose handicap can be reduced to normality by the wearing of a hearing aid, as a poorly sighted child can have normal sight restored by wearing glasses.

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When Giles was four a decision had to be taken about his primary school. Deaf children with his degree of hearing loss are usually educated in special schools or special units, but Giles's parents wanted him to attend a local school. Their reasons were the same as Mrs Tomalin's; they felt that Giles was being isolated from normal activities in the neighbourhood by attending a nursery on the other side of town. They did not want him to enter a special school for the deaf, a long way from home where he would be taught with other children handicapped like himself. They believed that he needed to live in an environment of hearing people to have the stimulus to make the most of his residual hearing.

His parents and his peripatetic

Dame Josephine Barnes, immediate past-president of the British Medical Association, contributes this week's guest article.

Anyone in public life is likely to be invited to give a memorial lecture, and several have come my way. I have also had the opportunity of listening to many since, as a medical student, I heard Lord Moylan, the distinguished surgeon, deliver the Annual Romanes Lecture at Oxford.

The invitation will be made some months before the date and there is ample time for preparation. But as the moment draws near the time for preparation gets shorter and shorter. Since a medical or paramedical subject there are slides to prepare, references to check and, if the text is to be published, the text itself must be written, rewritten, checked and rehearsed. In a busy life this task is all too easily put off until the last moment.

Several principles should guide the prospective speaker. The lecture must be the right length. Allowing for an introduction and a vote of thanks, the whole proceedings should last about an hour.

Clearly the subject should be of interest to the likely audience. In my case the listeners are likely to be either academic or medical, and some will know much more about the subject than I do. In the other hand, the audience should not be puzzled by obscure references to abstruse medical topics. So the balance must be right.

The lecture must refer to the person commemorated and have some relevance to his or her life and work. I have never had the good fortune to present an original and striking advance, as for example, when Mr Patrick Steptoe gave the Jennifer Hallam Memorial Lecture last year on extra-corporeal fertilization—in lay terms, test-tube babies. But advances in medicine, particularly in obstetrics and gynaecology, have been so remarkable in my lifetime that it is generally possible to find advances which have improved

and enhanced the lives of women and their babies.

The first such lecture I was asked to give was the annual Fewcott Lecture at Bedford College, London. This commemorates Dame Millicent Fewcott, sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and a pioneer in securing votes for women. This lecture was due near the time of the centenary of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's qualification in medicine; she founded the hospital which bears her name one year later. Thus an obvious topic was the history of women in medicine.

The next was the annual Dame Juliet Rhys-Williams lecture to the National Birthday Trust Fund, founded in 1923 by Lady George Chelmsley and Lady Baldwin for the improvement of maternity services, then woefully deficient. Lady Rhys-Williams was for many years its chairman and, though a laywoman in medical terms, knew more about maternity services than most doctors.

She was a leading figure in providing aid to the women of the Rhonda Valley during the 1930s, when maternal

Two accounts were recently published in *The Times* about the education of handicapped children. In the first, Mrs Claire Foster recounted her own unsuccessful attempt to persuade the Inner London Education Authority to allow her physically handicapped, mentally normal son to be educated within the normal school system rather than in a special school.

The second account, from Yvonne Josefine Marrero-Ardila, related her own happy and successful education at the special school attended by Mrs Tomalin's son, and contained a moving cry for more understanding and co-operation between education in special schools or special units and education within the normal state system, backed by specially trained peripatetic teachers who use a wide range of sophisticated equipment.

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Guest Column

Accustomed as I have become to public speaking . . .

Bartholomew Mosse Oration. Bartholomew Mosse was the founder of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital. I chose to talk about the teaching of obstetrics, based on what I had learnt from my own teachers.

In 1977 I was invited to give the annual Simpson Memorial Lecture. This commemorates the life and work of Sir James Young Simpson of Edinburgh, an outstanding figure in nineteenth century medicine, physician to the Queen in Scotland, and the first doctor to use chloroform as an anaesthetic. This gave an opportunity to talk about some of Simpson's contemporaries who helped to develop his ideas.

As I was preparing to go I heard on the radio that a power cut was imminent. The lecture had to be delivered in almost total darkness. It was impossible to show the many slides I had prepared and to read my text. I was provided with a storm lantern which made it impossible to see anything else.

A similar hazard was encountered last year at the annual lecture of the Liverpool Medical Institution. A BBC television crew were filming but I was so dazzled by the lights that I could not see the screen and got in a fearful muddle with the slides.

The invitation to deliver the Sophia Lecture to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne this year was a considerable challenge as the first had been delivered by Dame Veronica Wedgwood. I could not hope to aspire to her erudition so I decided to talk about the medical scene as I had witnessed it under the title "Twentieth Century Gynaecologist".

The Sophia Lecture was established in memory of Ellen Sophia Bosanquet, who went up to Somerville in 1896. She married the archaeologist R. C. Bosanquet and they lived in Greece and in Liverpool, where he was Professor of Classical Archaeology.

In paying my tribute I ended by saying that in the future I would most like to see more emphasis on preventive medicine.

It has been a tremendous honour to be invited to give these lectures. There is always the feeling that in the time available it is possible only to pay scant respect to the life and work of the person commemorated. Rather, one is revealing something of oneself, if not as a person, at least a part of what it is possible for one person to achieve in a lifetime.

Elizabeth Roe

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Social Focus

The happy triumph of one deaf child

It is a tremendous effort for a deaf child to use residual hearing and lip-read constantly, and it is very much easier for him to retire into a world of silence and signing.

Giles showed signs of being intellectually able and his health was normal for a child of his age, so his parents pressed the authority to allow him to enter a normal primary school when he reached school age.

The authority agreed, and Giles entered the reception class in his local school with the other four-year-olds in the neighbourhood. Three times a week a peripatetic teacher of the deaf came to the school and gave him special tuition for 75 minutes. She brought the electronic aids that can help deaf children so much; she brought her own special knowledge and skills, and she was available to help, advise and encourage him.

The class teacher in turn could inform the peripatetic teacher of the kind of work that had been done in class, the areas where Giles seemed to need extra help or extra knowledge, or aspects of work that had interested him particularly.

Like other four-year-olds, Giles was expected to adapt gradually to having less adult attention than a toddler, to being part of a larger social group. He had to share his class teacher with nearly 30 other children; he had to share toys and equipment in the classroom; he had to play and learn with other children. We found he was accepted by the other children as one of themselves, and he learnt to accept himself as one of a group of normal children.

He made friends with other children who lived near his home as his mother had hoped. His social contacts were no longer confined to other handicapped children or specially arranged meetings with children of his parents' friends.

As he grew older Giles kept up with the other children in his class. His speech improved steadily, and with his ability to communicate with hearing children came the ability to construct proper grammatical sentences. Many deaf children never learn to construct sentences, since they do not hear complete sentences but only pick out isolated words. The lack of properly constructed language is a source of immense frustration.

Giles learnt to read well, and books provided him with a proper language, a steadily expanding vocabulary and general knowledge wider than those of many hearing children. He joined in all the normal activities of the other children, taking part in outings and plays, at first in silent parts, and later, as he learnt to project his voice, in speaking parts in front of an audience of other children or parents.

By the age of eight his reading skill was well above average, and he was able to start filling in for himself some of the gaps left by his late acquisition of language. His parents and his peripatetic

teacher continued to expand his experience as much as possible. When he was nine, he learnt to swim in the ordinary school swimming class. He had to take out his hearing aids and insert ear plugs before entering the water, so in the pool he had to rely entirely on lip-reading and gesture—but he learnt.

It was not long before he went up proudly in school assembly to receive his Amateur Swimming Association 25-metre badge. A few weeks later he went up again, to receive the cycling proficiency certificate awarded by the police.

Giles is still being educated in the same way. He can manage himself understood clearly to a stranger, and he is not shy. He mixes happily with normal children without expecting concessions. You must face him when you talk to him and it helps to use appropriate gestures, that is all.

When Giles is 16 he will have to enter the normal world of work or further or higher education. It will be much less of a shock for him, after a childhood spent in an ordinary school, playing, learning and competing with other children, than if he had spent his childhood in a social school. His parents' decision to ask for him to be educated in an ordinary school seems to have been fully justified. As they hoped, his speech has improved enormously through living and working with hearing people. He has also proved to them and to others and to himself, that he can adapt and to himself, that he can be a person who happens to be deaf, not simply a handicapped person.

Of course, education in a normal school would not be suitable for every handicapped child. Giles has some residual hearing, which he could be taught to make full use of; he was not totally deaf. He had reasonably good health, so he did not spend long spells away from school, ill at home or in hospital.

He was of at least average intelligence, so he could benefit from the intellectual stimulus of his peers, and was not frustrated by constant failure to keep up with the rest of the class. Finally, his parents were enthusiastically in favour of his education in an ordinary school, and were eager to co-operate in any way which could help him join in ordinary activities. For Giles, this was the right form of education.

Other handicapped children, with poor health or in need of prolonged hospital treatment, or with impaired mental powers, could not benefit from the stimulus of the rough and tumble of a normal school as he has done. It would be a pity if children who could benefit from being educated in a normal school were denied the opportunity simply because the authorities do not believe it can work. Those of us who had the privilege of teaching Giles know that it can work.

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Should home births be ruled out?

Although childbirth in Britain has never been safer there is little room for complacency because several of our European neighbours report lower death rates for mothers and babies. Our death rate among newborn babies is still 50 per cent higher than that in Sweden. We are not among the leaders nor is the baby death rate falling as fast as it is in some countries.

We can, however, claim credit for a unique system of confidential inquiries into maternal deaths which has, since 1952, given detailed information about the reasons for these deaths and has allowed experienced assessors to identify those deaths that might have been avoided had management been in accordance with the best standards of accepted practice.

Responsibility for "avoidable factors" in these maternal deaths is shared by doctors, nurses, administrators, and patients. The educational value of these reports—issued every three years—is widely acclaimed, and it is acknowledged that they have contributed notably to raising the standard of obstetric practice.

But the impact on patients and their families is less sure for they are rarely invited to study the reports. This is a pity, for almost half of the problems that led to death during pregnancy and were judged to be avoidable, were directly the responsibility of the patient or her relatives—mostly a matter of ignoring medical advice.

The complex mix of social and medical factors that lead to baby deaths has been studied extensively in the United Kingdom. Many more babies die than mothers and it is possible to examine reasons and trends with greater accuracy. Earlier this year the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys published information on baby deaths in England and Wales related to the place of confinement—information not previously available.

It showed that since 1975 there has been a steady fall in mortality among babies delivered in consultant staffed maternity units. In the face of these facts it is hardly surprising that the House of Commons Committee chaired by Mrs. Renée Short, recommended that more women should be delivered in larger well equipped

to the audience.

Bedecked in outrageous and colourful flowered costumes, his face as grotesquely made up as something from Cabaret, Mr Bardon's presentation is so happily rude and Mr Shakespeare's selection of material is so spontaneously right that it makes for a lively trip back in comic time.

The production is by William Gaunt, who originally staged it at the Liverpool Playhouse.

PAUL MAZURSKYS

WILLIE & PHIL

STARTS TOMORROW

RITZ GATE THERAPY

LOUGHER SQUARE. CHINA GARDENS

20.15 45.30.7.15

Caroline Moorehead on the unpredictable pressures imposed by release after a long captivity

The ordeal still to be faced by the hostages

When Iranian students burst into the United States embassy in Tehran 445 days ago it was the beginning of the longest modern terrorist siege. No one doubts that the 52 men and women about to enter the American Forces hospital in Wiesbaden now will be suffering from a trauma of release almost as confusing and shocking as that of their capture. The question is what can be done about it. The fact is that psychiatric opinion today is sharply divided between those who insist that the hostages must be "decompressed" allowed to simmer down in the very company of those with whom they have been confined, and doctors who maintain that the sooner they are returned to some kind of previous normality the more likely their recovery.

Psychiatric work with the victims of terrorist sieges, kidnappings and hijackings is inevitably very new. When the first Dutch train was hijacked by South Moluccan terrorists in 1975 the survivors returned home as soon as they were released. No one thought they needed help. Only when a second train was taken two years later, and at the same time 105 Dutch children were kept prisoner in their school, did it emerge that the first group of hostages were still suffering from the aftermath of their ordeal.

Many complained of feelings of betrayal and abandonment. Relatives came forward to say that they had felt helpless before outbursts of irrational emotion or bouts of deep depression. "Hijack therapy" pioneered by two Dutch psychiatrists, Dick van Mulder and Willem van Dijk did not, however, prevent the hostage children later showing signs of severe school phobia and chronic obsessiveness about their studies.

Other modern evidence comes from the Swedish bank robbery that gave the world the "Stockholm syndrome", the sense of affection that builds up between captor and captive; this bond, it seems, is an enduring one. Kristin, one of the girls held in the vaults, continued years after her release to write to her captor.

From my own research with the victims of kidnappings emerged a picture of lost ambition. Alfredo Danesi, heir to an Italian coffee empire, once a fanatical enthusiastic worker, told me that after some weeks in the hands of kidnappers he returned home no longer caring very much about anything. Jasper Cross, the British diplomat held in Canada, said that ever since his release he has felt as if he were living on borrowed time.

What is special about the American hostages is the sheer length of their captivity and that they have not been held on their own; and in this they are most like survivors of concentration camps and prisoner-of-war camps who live under expectation of death and absolute uncertainty about the future.

Dr Frank Ochberg, an American specialist in this field, has put together a profile of possible reactions to dis-



Prayer helps... American hostages celebrating Christmas mass with a bishop of the Armenian Church.

ters of this kind. Initially, he said, a victim on his release can hardly fail to suffer from anxiety. Whether these symptoms persist or whether they turned either into deep depressions, the "pervading joylessness" reported by ex-prisoners of concentration camps, who decades later remained imperious to therapy, success or family happiness, or into paranoia, depends, he explained, both on the character and personality of the survivor and on their personal history.

Being confined, he found, had lowered the resistance of some to infection and with it their ability to tolerate change, while others never again regained a previous good memory or physical hardness.

Clues to the future recovery from more than a year's confinement are possibly to be found in the way the American hostages coped with the actual captivity. Few details about how they were kept have emerged, but whether alone or in groups, in relative physical comfort or acute hardship, to survive the first hours of

frantic anxiety they will all have moulded personal formulas for survival just what these were, say the psychiatrists, depends on their nature, on whether they were "good copers", who marshalled their forces to remain calm; whether they were the kinds of strong personality nearly immune from vulnerability; whether they had some sort of relevant previous experience, of Army discipline, for instance.

Studies of prisoners-of-war in the Far East have shown that those who, in psychiatric language, were "passive and dependent" adapted badly; those who were either "healthy" or "schizoid" did not. Determination to live, prayer and hope are very important.

In Theresienstadt concentration camp, those who were most fortunate were either priests, doctors and nurses who were able to concentrate on the problems of others, or those people able against all odds to retain their own sense of values.

Self esteem is crucial. Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the British ambassador held captive by the

Tupamaros for eight months in Uruguay, set rules about how his kidnappers were to address him. He would answer to "Jackson" or "Senor" but not to "Cell No 10". He survived the ordeal with fortitude and, superficially at least, unscathed. Conversely, being treated like animals in a zoo, paraded or subjected to personal vilification—as the American hostages have been—has broken some men who could not stand physical pain but not the erosion of their dignity.

Several kidnappers told me that they felt throughout their confinement that their experience was easier to bear than that of their families. Certainly many wives and children have stood up heroically during the ordeal only to fall prey to despair when it was over, showing many of the same symptoms—depression, paranoia—as the hostages themselves.

Some have felt extreme guilt at being able to do so little; others, rage against the authorities for seeming so impotent. What is clear is that nothing is ever the same again—marriages

broken, relationships cemented, aspirations altered.

The families of the American hostages may not have suffered the same sort of personal agony of losses, false leads, physical proofs that the captive was alive—locks of hair, phials of blood, fingerprints, that have tormented those who have been released rather than to read of the waiting wife of one American hostage talking of "needing a shakedown period too".

In the past, governments have been very ambivalent about what they should do for the returning survivors of sieges in which the victims are mere symbols, pawns in international politics. The American siege in Tehran is likely to change that attitude, create, possibly all over the world, a feeling of government responsibility for them. But the very confusion that surrounds their homecoming, the strictures about keeping families away from Wiesbaden while assembling a team of psychiatrists for debriefing, is an indication of how very uncertain those waiting are as to what they are likely to find.

The new offence would make it criminal to "interfere" with a motor vehicle in a public place "with the intention of" gaining entry to it, or access to anything in it, or to discover "whether it is possible to gain such entry or access".

Interference is not defined, but mainly it will cover sidling up to a car and trying the door handles. It could, of course, mean much less than that, for instance leaning on the car and looking inside.

How is the intent to be proved? It cannot be proved directly, of course, unless the accused admits it. Therefore the intention will have to be inferred by the act itself and it would in practice be for the accused to show that he did not intend to do any of the things mentioned in the section creating the offence. In which case, how will the new law differ, in practice, from the old?

In both cases evidence will come from the police that they saw the accused doing something to a car, and in both cases the intent of the person will have to be inferred from that act. If "sus" is used by the police to pick on young blacks, then so could the new law, its critics say, and the fear and antagonism felt by blacks would remain unaltered.

The Government has claimed that the new law was needed because the law of attempt—even as strengthened—and satisfied in the Bill—could not be used unless the attempted crime was clear: whether it was attempted theft of the car, or of something in the car, or attempted taking and driving away, or attempt to commit criminal damage.

It is striking, however, that many police forces have hardly needed to use "sus" to fight street crime and would not need to use the new law.

The Government should consider whether it is worth taking the chance of creating a more favourable response by blacks, which followed the announced abolition of "sus", by insisting on creating an unsatisfactory law which can only have the marginal effect on the fight against crime.

Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Bernard Levin

A right reverend legendary curse

It is related that the vicar of Down Ampney, understandably displeased when thieves broke into his church and stole a safe (empty of valuables), together with the alms-box, held a Service of Communion in which he called down "God's anger and judgment" on the malefactors. The good pastor was clearly not altogether happy with the word "curse" (he used the 1928 Prayer Book, in which it does not occur in the Communion), but there is no doubt that, whatever he called it, that is what he was doing. And what is more, he expects it to work: the robbers, he declared after the service, "will be clobbered, probably by the civil authorities, or God may clobber them on His own". (Well, yes; if God cannot mete out punishment to a pair of wrongdoers without calling in the Watch Committee of the Rural District Council of Down Ampney to render unto God the things that are Caesar's, things have changed rather dramatically in the God department since I was a boy.)

The vicar, as a matter of fact, was quite deeply into the theology of the business; he pointed out that God might let the thieves off completely, added that their souls could be redeemed in the next world even if their bodies were put to death in this one, and finished by expressing the firm belief that "The curse will bring them to repentance".

No surprise

All of which may provide thought, awe or entertainment, according to taste and theological views. But to another man of the vicar's cloth, a Minor Canon of St Paul's, it would certainly not have occasioned surprise. For the Minor Canon, in his day, was said on the subject of those who rob churches, those who curse them for doing so, and the effect on the former of the dreadful words of the latter.

Come, you surely need no more clues than that? Oh, very well.

The friars are kneeling, And hunting, and feeling, The carpet, the floor, and the walls, and the ceiling. The Cardinal drew off each plum-coloured shoe.

And left his red stockings exposed to the view. He peeped, and he felt in the toes and the heels: They turn up the dishes, they turn up the plates, they take up the poker and poke out the grates. They turn up the rugs, they examine the mugs— But, no—no such thing! They can't find THE RING! And the Abbot declared that, "when nobody twigged it, Some rascal or other had popped it in, and prigg'd it!"

Quite; now you know. But I bet you haven't read it for at least as long as I, and that must be 30 years at least. As for the vicar of Down Ampney, it is plain that he has never read it at all, for if he had he would not have wasted time on the 1928 Prayer Book version of the Communion Service; he would have gone on as he did, with all, with the Cardinal's curse.

He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed; From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head; He cursed him in sleeping, that every night; He should dream of the devil, and wake in a fright; He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking, he cursed him in coughing, in sneezing, in winking; He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in rising; He cursed him in walking, in riding, in flying; He cursed him in living, he cursed him in dying!

And of course the good news for the watchful shepherd of Down Ampney is that it works. At least, it works, for the Cardinal, and I really do not see why a Roman prelate should have more of an inside track

in these matters than an English country person of the Anglican persuasion. The day was gone, the night came on. The Monks and the Friars they search'd till dawn; When the Sacristan saw, On crumpled claw, Come limping a poor little name Jackdaw!

No longer gay. As yesterday; His feathers all seem'd to be turned the wrong way;— His pinions droop'd—he could hardly stand— His head was as bald as the palm of your hand; His eye so dim, So wasted each limb, That, heedless of grammar, they all cried, "THAT'S HIM!"

Of all the great English anthologies, *Barham's Fables*, *Palgrave's The Golden Treasury* (expanded and brought up to date by C. Day Lewis in 1954), *Quiller-Couch's Oxford Book of English Verse* (similarly revised in 1972 by Helen Gardner) the Reverend Richard Barham's *Ingoldsby Legends*, the least known of the three, would not be surprised to learn that the book is not even in print. And it is not difficult to see why; the truth is that Barham's implacable facetiousness in his poetry is so far out of fashion that it will clearly never come back, and his prose ghost stories are far too insipid for modern tastes. Nor is there any help in the fact that, although he hunted widely and assiduously for legends to tell to hold them all, he never found one in his own words: the *Ingoldsby Legends* are no more of a unity for that.

Yet *The Jackdaw of Rheims*, and that alone, survives, and I dare say it is known to thousands who would not recognize another line of Barham's, and who indeed have never heard of him and do not even know who wrote it. It has an innocence and a charm that, combined with the ingenuity of Barham's prosody, carries a reader irresistibly along, and as the tale unfolds to its double happy ending, which is a lift the curse as formally as it imposes it, and the jackdaw thereafter leads a life of exemplary piety) it casts a glow that explains its hold on so many generations.

Nearest comparison

I suppose *The Pied Piper* is the nearest comparison (for all I know—I am no Browning devotee—its author may have used Barham as a model); it, too, has survived when so much of the poet's other work has perished, and for much the same reason, which is the good heart and good humour it contains, together with a story sufficiently strong to force its way into the memory and remain there. (Incidentally, Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie* is not a version of the same story.)

So you see, the vicar of Down Ampney had good poetic warrant for his fearsome Communion, and he could have found in Barham as well as in scripture support for his view that the thieves will not only be punished by divine authority but will repent and reform as soon as they have been. And indeed, compared to what happened to the poor jackdaw the fate our man of God envisages for his robbers ("it could take the form of a road accident or nothing more serious than a fall downstairs and broken collarbone") is mild enough; anyway, if the vicars are reading these lines, let them take heart from the final apotheosis of the Jackdaw of Rheims, who died in the odour of sanctity and was finally canonized as St. Jackdaw. And if any of us should see a particularly wicked person, a particularly wicked churchwarden in the next few days, let us resolve to tell the vicar that his curse has worked and he may now lift it.

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Why the Russians are boring into the ice cap

Twenty-five years ago the Russians, whose country includes more frozen wasteland than any other in the world, sent a small expedition to the other side of the globe on the first Soviet exploration of the Antarctic.

Today, as the Russians celebrate the anniversary, about 1,400 people, including over 600 scientists, are in the southern continent on the biggest and most ambitious Soviet programme, to explore for minerals, bore deep into the ice cap, map the Antarctic mainland and study the ionosphere. The Russians are now among the most active and experienced of the 12 nations exploring Antarctica.

The latest expedition, now halfway through its work during the Antarctic summer, is the twenty-sixth to set off from the Institute for Arctic and Antarctic Research in Leningrad. It is led by Dr Vladimir Shamov, a 50-year-old geographer with vast experience of wintering on drifting icefloes, and is remarkably equipped.

Six ships are taking part, including the main supply vessel, *Kapitan Markov*, vessels for studying the ocean floor, three helicopters, four light aircraft, snow-trucks, hauler-trucks and mobile homes. Last year a direct air link was established between Moscow and the main Molodetzynskaya observatory in Enderby Land, one of seven permanent Soviet research stations.

A runway was built on an ice-floe 60 miles away by a special machine for heating and compacting the snow and it is strong enough to bear fully-laden turbo-prop Ilyushin 18D aircraft and even the larger Ilyushin 62 jets.

The flight takes 27 hours, stopping at Aden and Mozambique, and is now used regularly to ferry scientists and supplies to the frozen continent, a distance of 10,000 miles. Helicopters take the cargo on to the observatory.

Half the team of 600 scientists who arrived in October relieved those who stayed in the Antarctic stations throughout the bitter southern winter which lasted from September to March with winds of up to 120 miles an hour, destroyed ice wharves on the coasts and delayed supplies.

The current expedition has several main tasks. One is to drill through the ice-cap near the Komolomskaya research station, 10,000 feet above sea level and 500 miles inland from the Mirny base on the Davis Sea coast.

The well, to be sunk about three miles, over three seasons,

is being cut by an electric heat drill which will bring up test samples of ice, the "congealed snake" of climatic conditions centuries ago. The glacier at this point is almost 10,000 feet thick.

Marine geologists are also making seismic soundings into the sedimentary deposits at the bottom of the Weddell Sea, close to the South Pole, to study the conditions of underwater bonding with South America. They have already discovered a huge rift running from the Atlantic through the Weddell Sea deep into the ice-cap.

They will establish a new base, "Drushnaya 2", about 400 miles west of a seasonal base "Drushnaya 1", set up five years ago on a glacier at the

southern shore of the sea. Earlier this year a new meteorological station "Ruskiya" was opened in Marie Byrd Land. On the shore of the Amundsen Sea in the western sector of Antarctica. Scientists are measuring industrial wastes in the snow caused by atmospheric pollution.

They are also studying the ionosphere, a layer one base reported the presence of a mysterious-energy force causing unusual disturbances in the upper atmosphere. Laser beams detected inexplicable changes in the temperature, pressure and density of the atmosphere 60 miles up, possibly caused, the experts believe, by ionized particles streaming from the sun.

One of the main tasks of all expeditions has been to explore for minerals in the Antarctic. The Russians, however, vigorously deny that they are engaged in any territorial expansion on the continent. *Pravda* said last year that the setting up of a new research station did not contradict the 1959 Antarctic Treaty: the Soviet Union's claim to sovereignty to the principle of demilitarization and neutralization of the continent.

Several foreign scientists have joined the Russians in their searches. Americans and East Germans were attached to the twenty-fifth expedition and East German geophysicists are taking part in the present mission.

In 1978 polar explorers completed a two-month journey across the continent to the Vostok station at the "pole of cold". They travelled 2,000 miles by sledge and caterpillar train. Last year the Russians also published a new map of Antarctica which they said would be the basis for their search for valuable ores and minerals near the South Pole.

Michael Binyon

Sus, a new law for old?

Whatever positive effect the "sus" law may have had in combating street crime in the inner urban areas was far outweighed by the damage it did to relations between the police and the black community.

"Sus" became a symbol for police discrimination against young blacks. In some cities it soured the attitude of the ethnic minorities to the police in particular and, by extension, to authority generally.

The police have consistently denied that they applied the law in a discriminating way, but there is enough evidence to suggest that there was bias on their part, although much of it may have been unconscious. But even if some of the black reaction has been exaggerated, the feelings engendered by "sus" are none the less sincere and deeply held.

It was therefore, with a sigh of relief that the black community greeted, first, the recommendation by the Home Affairs select committee that "sus" should be abolished and the Government's decision to implement that proposal.

The Criminal Attempts Bill, which has just received its second reading in the Commons does indeed scrap "sus" (section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824). But it also creates a new offence—interference, with vehicles—which critics among Labour MPs, blacks, civil liberties bodies, and lawyers claim will have virtually the same effect.

The "sus" law is objectionable because it makes it criminal to merely to intend committing a crime. That intention can be proved by policemen giving evidence of overt acts—not for themselves crimes—which arouse their suspi-

cious. The new offence would make it criminal to "interfere" with a motor vehicle in a public place "with the intention of" gaining entry to it, or access to anything in it, or to discover "whether it is possible to gain such entry or access".

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Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

LONDON DIARY

Brewster's cliffhanging session

One man who did not know which way to turn yesterday was Kingman Brewster, the United States ambassador in London. He spent a good part of the day listening to the cliffhanging news from Iran with one ear and the progress of President Reagan's inauguration in Washington with the other.

In spite of a day of momentous events, rather than no special celebration was arranged at the embassy for either event, although staff found it difficult to keep their heads down at their everyday work. But there was immense relief, and not a few celebratory bottles of bubbly, at the select Inauguration Day reception hosted by the Ambassador at his official residence last night soon after the news of the hostages' release had been confirmed.

Concerning the more predictable of the day's two major stories, that on Capitol Hill, it was no occasion for Brewster to celebrate, as Jimmy Carter's

departure from the White House to signal the impending departure of Brewster from Grosvenor Square. A former president of Yale University, he was a Carter appointee who arrived as Ambassador to the Court of St James's in May, 1977.

It would be highly unusual for him to be kept on by an incoming President who will have a great number of friends and associates to whom he will be obliged to offer plum posts, of which the London embassy is undoubtedly one. Brewster will, as a matter of course, offer his resignation to the new President, and has indeed let it be known to his staff that he intends to return home soon.

Diplomatic circles have been so busy watching the drama of the hostages that they have had little time to speculate on a possible successor. I shall pass on any straws that the wind blows by.

Rumbling on

The man who abolished the Navy's rum ration was impatient yesterday, some 10 years after that shattering event, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Norton, who is about to front

a BBC television series on sea power, told a press conference he knew the decision would hardly endear him to the lower deck.

"But what tipped the scale was when I discovered that the ration we were giving every sailor from the age of 20 was sufficient to disqualify him from driving." Asked if this also applied to driving a ship, the admiral pierced the questioner with a baleful eye and growled, "The officers didn't get the bloody rum."

Jarring note

Representatives of one of Britain's biggest jam manufacturers will be inviting MPs to taste their wares at tea-time in the Palace of Westminster this afternoon. Their objective is to achieve a change in the present food and drugs laws which at least one local health authority has interpreted as making the sale of these long-established and popular products illegal.

Women's Institutes have been selling home-made jam for at least 50 years at church fairs and on market stalls. But last year health inspectors at Stockton-on-Tees ruled that any

premises where sausages or ported, pickled, pressed or preserved foods were prepared for public sale had to be registered and inspected. And they declined to register the domestic kitchens of the local WI members.

Wendy Smith of the National Federation of Women's Institutes told me yesterday: "If all health authorities interpreted the Food and Drugs Act as strictly as that, we would be breaking the law every time we took a pot of jam to a village fund-raising."

The WI members are incensed at the aspersions cast on their wholesome products, and the inevitable inference that to the commercial was sold on supermarket shelves. They intend to give the Commons a supply of WI jam to sell so that their superiority may be proved.

Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Secretary, has been taking advice on how to interpret the relevant Act, and he has indicated his willingness to put forward an amendment which would remove the unwarranted stigma from home-made preserves. The WI wish

he would hurry up and do it so that their 422 regular weekly market stalls throughout the country may be preserved from prowling trading standards officers.

A book recently published in New York is called "STD: A Commonsense Guide". British readers looking to it for tips on how to avoid all those failed telephone calls will be disappointed. As every American teenager knows, STD stands for sexually transmitted diseases.

Taking cover

Is your home next to a target for a Russian H-bomb? The Kremlin has not got round to handing out maps showing the precise spots at which its missiles are pointing, but for a mere £15 you can now confirm your worst fears.

Aftermath, a London-based firm, reckons it can tell people the possible damage their homes could suffer from heat, blast and radiation if a nuclear attack. A report "specific to your home" will indicate "the direction from which these effects might be expected, based on known targets". Known? Really? The report will advise on the

level of medical supplies, food stocks, special equipment and other items which should be kept ready. The household will be relieved to know that supplies are available from Aftermath in "a series of packs to increase survival capability". The cheapest is £50. Well, it makes a change from all those companies offering to build expensive fallout shelters as an insurance policy.

I would urge them up to ask whether I should move to a basement hideout in Rockall, but nowhere in their literature is there a phone number. But they do offer to send me a risk assessment report if I send them my editor's home address. Oh, come on: Leonid wouldn't go that far, would he?

Star quality

Lady Donaldson, wife of Lord Justice Donaldson, appeal court judge and sometime head of the ill-starred National Industrial Relations Court, has declared her intention of making a further assault on that particular further defended bastion of male domination: the City of London. She has been nominated as a candidate at the election in

June of City Sheriff, and if successful will be the first woman ever to hold the post. She first breached the City's defences in 1966 when she became the first woman member of the Square Mile's governing body, the Court of Common Council; in 1975 she went on to become the first female Alderperson.

Lady Donaldson, already a magistrate in the City, will find herself looking after the needs of judges at the Old Bailey if she wins the sheriffdom. But she is unlikely to have to attend to her husband; his main business is in the Queen's Bench Division in the Strand.

The Bible Society, in an advertisement for a programme for the computer press, is offering "opportunities for Christians to use their computer skills in full-time service form God" at their new headquarters in Swindon. After the mundane language of the new Alternative Service Book, I trust this is not part of a plan to translate the Authorized Version into Data Basic.

Alan Hamilton

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Mr Ronald Reagan has assumed the Presidency of the United States, and with it the leadership of the western alliance, at a time when both much need to have their confidence restored. The loss of American confidence can be attributed partly to economic difficulties; partly to the fact that the United States no longer dominates the international scene to the extent it did in military, economic or diplomatic terms; and partly to the cumulative effect of successive blows, external and internal, to the country's self-respect.

The economic difficulties may be temporary, though they are none the less pressing for that. In his inaugural address yesterday President Reagan recognised the extent of the economic challenge, which is not to say that he has devised the best means for meeting it. One of the principal weaknesses of the policies he put forward during his election campaign was his simple belief that it would be possible to have massive reductions in direct taxation and an increase in defence expenditure without further inflation. He has subsequently repeated his commitment to cutting personal taxes by a third over three years. His Secretary of the Treasury has, however, been taking a distinctly more cautious line—which encourages the hope that the Reagan administration will be much less naive in its policies than might be assumed by listening to the President.

With sensible management the American economy should revive in due course. It will not be easy, with inflation running at its present high rate, to keep prices under control as the country comes out of recession; but at least there is no reason to regard these problems as incapable of solution. It is not possible to

believe, though, that the United States can recover its former international predominance. Its diminished authority is something with which Americans need to come to terms, without exaggerating the decline in their power. This presents Mr Reagan with a psychological as much as a practical challenge.

It is one that he is peculiarly well fitted to meet. One of Mr Carter's tragedies was that he failed to appreciate the need for a leader to preserve a nation's myths without basing its policies on false hopes. Mr Reagan has exceptional skill as a communicator, whether on television or in person. He demonstrated this skill yesterday without encouraging exaggerated expectations—unless one regards his ambition to eradicate unemployment as too optimistic. It was worth taking that risk, though, in order to demonstrate his recognition of the suffering imposed by unemployment on the minority communities. His doctrine that "putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work" may not easily be realized. But, along with his call for "equal opportunities for all Americans with no barriers born of bigotry or discrimination" it suggests a pleasing determination to be the President of all his people.

The problems of the western alliance are also partly psychological. Or at least they will require careful psychological treatment because some of the practical difficulties will not easily be removed. The alliance has suffered in recent years from the sense that the United States was neither sufficiently firm nor sufficiently consistent in its policies. This can be corrected. In so far as it is possible to judge a President's foreign policy intentions from his inaugural address, the evidence that Mr Reagan offered yesterday was mildly encouraging.

Some may regret his implied rejection of the Carter policy on human rights. But it was inevitable that Mr Reagan would reject that policy, and it has to be acknowledged that the Carter administration's application of the policy contributed to the impression of inconsistency. In general Mr Reagan spoke with sufficient firmness towards allies and sufficient firmness towards the Soviet Union, without being provocative.

But such general statements, no matter how appropriately phrased, cannot conceal the real differences in the way that the member states of the alliance see their national interests. The European members are more concerned than the Americans about détente and trade with eastern Europe. They are in general less ready to act outside Europe for the protection of western interests. They are made uneasy by the loss of relative American power, at the same time as they fear that this power might sometimes be used unwisely. There is also the anxiety that now that American power no longer predominates the United States may not be so ready to use it for the protection of Europe.

These fears may not all be justified. Indeed, they are not all really consistent with each other. But if the alliance is to be more cohesive than it has been in the past few years the President of the United States will need to convey both a greater sense of strength and a greater sensitivity to European interests, irritating though these may be. Here again Mr Reagan may be helped by his power to communicate. Few Europeans expect him to be a great President. But he may prove to be a President whom they can understand and with whom they can come to terms more easily than his recent predecessors.

SOME RELIEF FOR WHALES

It may be too soon for the whales of the world to spout a sigh of relief over Russia's announcement that it means to convert its far eastern whaling fleet to other uses. The Soviet Union is the busiest hunter of whales in the world—last year it accounted for one-third by weight of the entire world catch—but it has made large offers of an amendment in its ways before, without much apparent result. Moreover, the present voluntary system for control of whaling sets an overall quota for each whaling ground, which the countries operating there apportion among themselves. Even if the Russians really mean to stop whaling in the Antarctic regions, where the threatened larger species are caught, as well as in their eastern waters, the Japanese might simply fill the gap.

It would not be wholly surprising if Russia has decided to give up large-scale whaling. Partly because of the progressive marking-down of quotas, and partly because of an ominous tendency for the number and size of whales to decline, the aging Soviet fleet can hardly be very profitable any longer. In Japan, the second most active whaling nation, many jobs still

depend on the industry, and a ban would cause more problems. But a Soviet withdrawal from the trade might sway voting on the International Whaling Commission, and make possible a moratorium on whaling, and international sanctions against countries which broke it.

The only safe way of ensuring that the whale-hunters do not pursue their quarry into extinction is to agree to stop whaling altogether until enough is known about their habits and life-cycle to make it clear what level of fishing, if any, the population can bear. Adequate commercial substitutes are now available for all whaling products. Some of the rarest kinds of whale have already been accorded complete official protection (it is a matter of debate how far this is a safeguard to the individual whale against the sights of the individual harpoon-gun), and the result has been to increase pressure on other species.

The Soviet announcement also promises other extensive measures for the protection of wildlife. This suggests that Russia may be beginning to attach more importance generally to the principle of conservation. Like the United States, it has the historical attitudes of a frontier

nation, apt to squander natural resources on the assumption that there is always more space to move into. It has been politically impossible for a spontaneous conservation movement to grow up in Russia as vigorously as it has in America. The third whaling nation in the southern hemisphere, Brazil, preserves an unregenerate frontier spirit to this day, by land as well as sea.

In America's frontier era, Herman Melville claimed that his countrymen were slaughtering not less than 13,000 sperm whale alone each year—a figure only slightly smaller than today's world quota for all species. Fears of overfishing were already being expressed in 1851, but Melville, comparing the "humped herds of whales with the humped herds of buffalo" which had disappeared in one lifetime in his own country, was nevertheless confident that the whale would be "immortal in his species". If the oceans swallowed up the land in a second flood, he prophesied that the whale would still swim triumphantly over "the site of the Tuileries and Windsor Castle, and the Kremlin". The whale's chance of being there to do so depends on decisions being made today in the Kremlin, and in Tokyo.

STAMPING ON THE BLACK PRESS

The South African government's latest sortie against the opposition press has succeeded in forcing the two largest-selling newspapers for blacks to close down. The government's cynical behaviour has been shameful even by its own standards of injustice. The consequences may be significant.

Its conduct cannot be other than counter-productive. The government has been patiently attempting, over a number of years, to win over some of the country's critics overseas by relaxing, little by little, some of the more obvious injustices and absurdities of the apartheid system. It has toned down "petty" apartheid, increased the possibility of playing multi-racial sport (though not nearly as much as some apologists claim) and granted, in certain respects, a measure of equality between the races where none existed before. None of this greatly

mitigates the fundamental evil of the system, but such tentative steps, supported by encouraging noises from the Prime Minister Mr Botha and some of his ministers, gave some cause for hope. The action against the black press will do much to destroy any feelings of optimism about the future of the country. It was, in terms of foreign relations, an extraordinarily inept thing to do, even for a government not known for its delicacy of diplomacy. Its claim that South Africa has, unlike most African states, a more or less free press looks more threadbare now than it has ever done before.

The main impact, however, will be on the internal politics of the country. South Africa's blacks, now permanently deprived of their two principal avenues of news and comment on affairs affecting them, will be further alienated. The government's move is bound to convert more moderates to militancy,

and to make any peaceful solution to the country's problems even more difficult to achieve. It must not be thought that other papers could take the place of the two that are closing. As it is, *The Post* and the *Sunday Post* were more cautious and less openly critical than their predecessor *The World*. Any successors would have to be even more bland and obsequious. If they were not, they too would face the banning order.

But the closures carry a clear message for South Africa's white opposition newspapers as well. For many years the government, through a host of laws coupled with extra-legal pressures, has been steadily whittling down the effective freedom of the South African press. Now, it has made it clear that it might be prepared to use its ultimate sanction with less reluctance. What has happened to these two black papers cannot make the *Rand Daily Mail* rest easily.

Historical heirlooms

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA
Sir, Commander L. M. M. Saunders Watson (January 15), writing as deputy chairman of the Historic Houses Association, is of course correct in implying that the administration of the statutory provisions for conditional exemption from capital transfer tax for works of art, museum objects, libraries and archives does not present problems for owners of houses open to the public. In addition no difficulties arise in the case of those relatively few owners who lend their treasures for prolonged periods to public museums.

But in the case of owners, perhaps even with only two or three exemptable objects, who live in flats or houses not suitable for public access, the administration of the statutory provisions by the Capital Taxes Office is in effect contrary to the spirit of the legislation.

The fact is that, before permission is given for use of the existing administrative facilities for viewing by

appointment, together with agreeing to lend to accredited temporary public exhibitions, the applicants are pressured by the CTO to find museums willing to accept permanent long-term loans of their works of art. This is very much easier said than done in practice.

The consequences of such unforgotten pressures are that, first, owners are positively discouraged from claiming exemption and secondly, that the works in question find their way on to the international art market. This appears to be quite contrary to the stated government policy of preventing the dispersal abroad of our cultural inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

not mention the final outcome of the case of *Madame Tussaud's* in 1894 (for that the Birmingham exhibition in that year had no connection with Madame Tussaud's).

When Mr Monson, of Ardnamoan, sued Madame Tussaud's for alleged libel because of the way his waxwork figure was exhibited, very near, though not actually in, the Chamber of Horrors, there was a question of whether he had consented to the exhibition complained of.

His action to recover damages was heard before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury in January, 1895. The jury, having retired for a quarter of an hour, found for the plaintiff: damages one farthing.

A full report of the proceedings appeared in *The Times* of January 25, 30 and 31, 1895.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOUGH,
Company Secretary,
Madame Tussaud's Ltd,
Marylebone Road, NW1.

Model example

From Mr John Lough
Sir, The interesting letter from Mr Jonathan Ruffe (January 15) did

Seeking a middle way in politics

From Sir Leslie Murphy
Sir, I have been a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party. The reasons for this are very similar to those mentioned by Mr Callaghan at the recent conference at Blackpool. My father became unemployed during the depression of the thirties as a result of the closure of the plant in which he was working. I was at school at the time and his experiences made a deep impression on me.

It seemed to me then that the Labour Party had a better understanding of the consequences for the individual of policies which neglected human and spiritual values in pursuit of economic and financial goals. It was searching for a fairer and more just society.

Later on, I became private secretary to Hugh Gaitskell and this served to confirm those early formed views. His untimely death was in my view a great tragedy for the Labour Party and has had a decisive effect upon its policies and its fortunes.

We are now facing a period in which we may experience some of the problems of the thirties. Part of the cause of this lies in economic changes on the world scene from which we cannot insulate ourselves. These are the rise in energy prices, the depression in world trade and the inflationary pressures felt on a worldwide basis. But the domestic policies pursued by the present Government during the last 18 months have undoubtedly exacerbated the situation in the United Kingdom and as a result we are facing further rise in unemployment—perhaps to three million or worse—the spread of poverty and homelessness and an increase in social tensions, particularly among the young unemployed.

In these circumstances, I would have expected to continue my support for the Labour Party. But the policies which it is now proposing seem to me just as unacceptable as those of the present Government. The National Executive of the Labour Party is dominated by the left wing and is committed to withdrawal from the EEC, unilateral disarmament and a wholesale extension of public ownership of industry. In addition, it is attempting to force the Parliamentary Labour Party to be bound by the decisions of the party conference. This would mean that the focus of power would be transferred away from Parliament. This seems to me to be a repudiation of the system of parliamentary democracy by which this country has been governed for centuries.

We are therefore faced with the necessity of finding some other alternative to the two main political parties. For I have reached the conclusion that the slide of the Labour Party to the left, which started after the death of Hugh Gaitskell, has now gone so far that the moderates have little chance of regaining it.

What is needed is for men and women of moderate views to work out a set of policies that would appeal to the broad mass of public opinion which is dissatisfied with the extremes of both right and left. The focus of power must not be easy. Mr Steel has given a lead with the recently issued statement of a 10-point policy. Mr Jenkins last week indicated his readiness to play his part. We now need to know whether the Labour moderates are prepared to join in or whether they will consent to be submerged by the slide to the left.

If this process can be accomplished successfully it could provide the basis for an electoral alliance between the Liberals and a new group of Labour MPs and independents who believe in parliamentary democracy and hold moderate radical views. I consider it to be essential that, by the time of the next election, the electorate should be offered a viable alternative to the existing political spectrum.

The running must be made by experienced politicians, but I am

sure that, if they will make the effort, there will be many like me who will be prepared to support them.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE MURPHY,
Hedgeley,
6 Barton Colman Road,
Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire.
January 20.

From Mr Roger Pincham
Sir, It is scarcely for a Liberal to elaborate upon the fine but important distinctions drawn by Susan Crosland between "democratic socialism" and "social democracy" (January 19). One can only assume that the key to the difference lies in the priority given to her three strands of "Croslandism", liberty, democracy and equality.

The pursuit of material equality is not and never has been a serious objective of Liberalism. Certainly we have campaigned for the elimination of poverty and the establishment of a decent and rising standard of living for all members of society. Extravagant prosperity in the midst of poverty, whether on a national or international scale, can only be abhorrent to the spirit of Liberalism.

It is Tony Crosland asserted, "socialism" is basically about "equality", then Liberalism is basically about liberty. For all its faults, democracy remains the most reliable guarantor of liberty: hence our commitment to extend the influence of democracy, participation and responsibility to many important aspects of public and commercial life.

Likewise, the pursuit of liberty necessitates the dissolution of monopolies, whether of capital, labour or resources. Where that is not possible, monopolies must be under firm control and accountable to the public as a whole.

In essence, the pursuit of liberty is all about giving the individual the maximum opportunity to fulfil his own talents and thereby to serve the community in the most effective way. Hence, our continuing commitment to vigorous and responsible free enterprise and the encouragement of new businesses, and a greater variety of corporate forms. Without this successful wealth-producing base the national decline must continue.

A Liberal society can only be based upon the recognition of the unique and thereby equal value of each of its members. By the same token, it would not incline towards the Marxist error of imagining that equality of value implies equality of wealth and need. Who, indeed, has the wisdom or authority to assess another man's needs?

I would suggest generosity and love of justice as the two principal strands supporting the primary Liberal commitment to the defence and extension of liberty. These elements, in their nature, embrace our alliance to the principles of internationalism, voluntarism, devotion of power, ecological responsibility, co-operation, and the very thorough care of those unable to look after themselves.

I am convinced that Liberals and latter-day social democrats have sufficient in common to build a new and powerful platform in British politics, but if this is to succeed it must be based upon the honourable alliance of distinctive political philosophies rather than the murky liaison of political convenience.

David Steel's 10-point plan has been welcomed across the country as a serious initiative at a time of national crisis. If it provides evidence of the Liberal Party's willingness to build bridges, it is also indicative of our determination to make a powerful and independent contribution to the reform and recovery of this nation in the 1980s.

Yours, etc.
ROGER PINCHAM, Chairman of the Liberal Party
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.
January 20.

In the slightly later light

From Mr Terence Harris
Sir, I believe that Mrs Margaret Leighton (January 15) is right and Bernard Kaplan (January 13) is wrong. Mr Kaplan is surely making the common error of equating New York with the United States. In my experience, covering many parts of the United States outside New York, business does start at 8 o'clock. In my own company a high proportion of key executives regularly arrive between 7 and 7.30 am and work late.

However, the key issue is not the starting time of business. Workers from this country to the United States will have noticed the extremely poor coverage of news on the radio. Anyone wishing to keep up with world affairs has little option but to tune in to the early television news programmes and somehow they manage to do this whilst preparing themselves for work. Therefore the situations in the United States and Britain are not comparable.

In Britain we have an excellent news service on the radio and I would be surprised if busy executives would bother with early morning television.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. HARRIS,
Vice-President, European
Centric,
Peterborough House,
Harrington Road, SW7.
January 14.

University election

From Professor Anthony Mortimer
Sir, What is a university chancellor? A public Somebody who honours official ceremonies with his or her presence? If so, there is no good reason why Princess Anne should not serve as well as any other equestrian figure, but it hardly seems a serious worth valuing on. Or is the Chancellor someone not necessarily academic, who has the intellectual competence and prestige to speak to and for the university when the need arises? The Princess does not fit the bill. Nor does Mr Jones. Mr Mandela,

even if he were in a position to speak, has other and more pressing concerns.

Thus, at a time when British universities need the most articulate friends they can get, London has obviously let the side down. If the Cabinet reshuffle had taken place earlier, one might have appealed to Mr St John-Stevens. As it is, I can only hope that the election will demonstrate their sanity by mass abstention.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORTIMER,
University of Fribourg,
CH-1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.
January 14.

Citizenship implications

From Mr Ernest Pendrous
Sir, In your leading article today ("Three classes of citizen", January 15) you say: "...the mere possibility that a few million people in the overseas dependencies might sometime wish to take up their right of entry would be liable to feed irrational fears."

Why is it that just seemingly the possibility of such immigration (no matter how remote) can be a matter for rational concern?

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST PENDROUS,
2 Twyford Court,
Twyford Avenue, W3.
January 15.

Coverage of Sutcliffe case

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy
Sir, I very much doubt whether the reports of the Sutcliffe case that have appeared in the press and television will in any way influence any jury that may in the future be empanelled to hear a case against him. Juries are well able to distinguish between what they hear in court and what they may have heard or read in the media months beforehand.

What is often more prejudicial to an accused's case is the practice in English (though not Scottish) courts of prosecuting counsel opening his case by telling the jury what he hopes to prove against the accused, and what in the event he sometimes fails to prove.

A good example of this occurred in the Stephen Ward trial. In his opening speech Mr Griffith-Jones made a number of highly damaging allegations against Ward, few of which were supported by subsequent evidence. That the jury at the end of the day found Ward guilty on two counts of living off the immoral earnings of Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies can only be explained, in my view, by Mr Griffith-Jones having so blackened Ward's character that the jury were unable to distinguish between what he said he would prove and what he did prove.

Yours, etc.
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace
Wrexham,
Clwyd.
January 16.

Hot under collar

From Mrs M. Borrow
Sir, I have read with interest the protracted correspondence in your columns concerning stiff white collars and think my observations may be of some interest.

With the advent of Chinese restaurants and later "takeaways", many, if not all, Chinese laundries have now disappeared and with them many of the banded-down skills of laundering.

As the daughter of a laundry owner I can well recall the many processes to which stiff collars were subjected before being passed as ready. After washing and starching the collars were smoothed out individually by hand and threaded on to wires for drying. They were then packed between damp sheets and weighted down.

When they had reached the right degree of dampness, they were then pressed by a hand-operated roller until they had acquired a high gloss and smoothness. Lastly, the piece de résistance, when the collars were curled into a circular shape with a flat iron; a skill I was never able to master, although I tried on many occasions.

I trust this throws some light on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
M. BORROW,
Bryn Hyfryd,
Marford Hill,
Wrexham,
Clwyd.
January 16.

Instrumental in educating the young

From Mr and Mrs Christopher Driver
Sir, Professor Peter Wishart (January 17) writes from a university music department to say that without music in the curriculum the people perish, and this makes it easy for people who know no better to discount his views on grounds of professional interest. But he is right.

Both of us belong to a generation in which comparatively few children could be taught to read music and play instruments, and think ourselves fortunate to have been among the exceptions because there were people who could see what was of enduring value, even in 1940-50, when the country had more pressing things on its mind than it does now.

Neither of us would have thought of making a living in music, even if it had been in our power; that is no more the point of musical education than religious education, in the centuries which insisted upon it, was designed to make a priest of every pupil. But without basic musical skills we would have been shut out from, and our own children would have been slower or less likely to enter, a creative world which seldom reveals its innermost secrets to listeners only.

State school pupils of the past 20 years have at last been permitted to explore this world in significant numbers, with results that will still be noticeable in 50 years' time (that is no hyperbole: most London amateur orchestras, and concert audiences, include someone whose ears and fingers were trained to the violin in Austria before the Anschluss).

If music in schools is now to be dismissed again as a luxury because politicians and administrators, local or national, are themselves ill-equipped to see the point of it, another generation will be unfairly deprived and will not forgive those responsible, if it eventually realises what it has missed.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DRIVER,
MARGARET DRIVER,
6 Church Road, Highgate, NG.

From The Precursor and Director of Music, Eton College
Sir, The value of music as a leisure pursuit for performers and listeners

Caveat vendor

From Sir James Goldsmith
Sir, *The Times* reported, in a somewhat idiosyncratic way, the recent appeal by Mr Michael Gillard heard before Lord Denning, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn. Mr Michael Gillard, who is a junior partner in a firm of solicitors, was appealing against a unanimous decision by a jury that I was justified in describing him as a blackmailer.

As is normal, the case in the Court of Appeal was opened by Mr Gillard's counsel, Mr M. Wright, QC. While Mr Gillard's case was being presented significant publicity appeared in your newspaper. My case was then put to their lordships by Lord Rawlinson, QC. When my case was presented, a sudden hush descended on the court, and those of us most of us newswriters.

However, I was particularly amused by this morning's paper (January 20) which reported the unanimous decision by the three learned judges to dismiss Mr Gillard's appeal. Your report appeared in two paragraphs at the bottom of page 2 under the somewhat equivocal title, "Goldsmith case appeal fails". Do you believe that this title would indicate to the average reader that I had won or lost the case?

It is clear, however, that some people think that they can treat this law with contempt, and so I would like to appeal to those others who may wish to demolish a "listed" building, but at the same time believe in observing the law, to contact us at this address before they do so. They will then have the double satisfaction of providing posterity a better record of our heritage than would otherwise be available and of acting as good citizens.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FOWLER,
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Fate of listed buildings

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
Sir, Hardly has the dust settled from the unauthorized stripping of the library interior of Wadham College (London Diary, January 8), than we learn (January 14) that the unique mid-seventeenth-century almshouses at Denton in Lincolnshire have also been clandestinely demolished.

This commission is charged with the duty of recording historic buildings. All who wish to demolish or alter buildings which have been "listed" are legally bound to give us the opportunity to record them first (section 55, Town and Country Planning Act, 1971). This is part of the legal protection given to buildings by designating them as being of "listed" status.

It is clear, however, that some people think that they can treat this law with contempt, and so I would like to appeal to those others who may wish to demolish a "listed" building, but at the same time believe in observing the law, to contact us at this address before they do so. They will then have the double satisfaction of providing posterity a better record of our heritage than would otherwise be available and of acting as good citizens.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FOWLER,
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Voice from the past

From Sir John Barran
Sir, The most noticeable feature of RSM Britain's voice was its penetrating quality, which he achieved by making it very high, rather than a roar. Its effectiveness was demonstrated on parade at Mons one day in the 1950s when a small aeroplane buzzed noisily over the barrack square whilst we were at drill below.

Inflating his lungs to their fullest extent he cried: "Get out of my sky!"—and the aeroplane obligingly altered course.

What a man.

Yours most impressed,
JOHN BARRAN,
17 St Leonard's Terrace, SW2.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 20. The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 20. Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society, this morning attended a Meeting of the Council at 9, Grosvenor Gardens, London. In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the VAD Ladies' Club at 44, Great Cumberland Place, London.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Princess Anne will attend the re-dedication of HMS Jersey at HM Naval Base, Rosyth, Fife, on January 29.

Princess Alexandra will visit Whitlington Hospital, Highgate, London, on February 10.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend the New Zealand Society's Winter dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, on February 3.

A memorial service will be held for Lord St Helens at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, February 11, at noon.

A memorial service for Canon Peter Newell will be held in the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral at noon on Saturday, January 31.

Birthdays today

Mr Rohan Butler, 64; Sir Nicholas Cavar, 71; Father J. J. Cavanagh, 65; Mr P. J. Domingo, 40; Dr John Hayes, 52; Major-General A. P. W. Hope, 70; Sir George A. Middleton, 71; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge, 77; Mr Laurence Whittaker, 69.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visits Quantel Ltd, Newbury, Berkshire, 11.15, and Electro-Medical Supplies (Greenham), Wokingham, 1.15.

Lectures: Colono Primitives, by Alistair Smith, National Gallery, 1.15; Female warriors in Greek art, by Anton Powell, 1.15.

Roman theatre, by Patsy Vancos, 1.15; British Museum, Marston Tavern, by Elaine Feinstein, Poetry Society, 2.15; Professor Sir William Wiersma, 7.7; Mr Laurence Whittaker, 69.

Exhibitions: Works by 10 painters from Berlin, 1.15; The Pre-Raphaelite painters and their religion, by Simon Wilson, Tate Gallery, 1.15; The birth of the English portrait, miniature, 1.15; The English portrait, miniature, 1.15; The English portrait, miniature, 1.15.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. C. L. Mayall and Miss J. W. A. C. High. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Sir Lees and the Hon Lady Mayall, of Sturford Mead, Warrminster, Wiltshire, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. W. High, of Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr S. Drake and Miss V. Sewell. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Drake, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sewell, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr R. D. Bush and Miss D. N. A. Pearce. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Bush, of Beckenham House, Colmore, Hampshire, and Daphne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pearce, of Kemps, Haverhill, Kent.

Mr C. J. August and Miss N. D. Buce. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs August, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Nimfa, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Buce, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr C. C. Brooke Smith and Miss D. E. Denaro. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Brooke Smith, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Daphne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Denaro, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr A. J. Carter and Miss P. M. Wyatt. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Carter, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wyatt, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr A. S. Dalton and Dr J. M. Sequeira. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Dalton, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sequeira, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr N. B. Drewke and Miss J. M. Postgate. The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Drewke, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Postgate, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr A. Foster and Miss M. J. Hicks. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Foster, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hicks, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr J. E. Gaffney and Miss P. C. A. Sparcy. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Gaffney, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sparcy, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

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Mr E. A. Hout and Miss S. E. Dobree. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Hout, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dobree, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr P. M. J. Hogg and Miss V. Hogg. The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr and Mrs Hogg, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hogg, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr G. N. Humphrey-Baker and Miss F. S. Wright. The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Mr and Mrs Humphrey-Baker, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wright, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr M. Horsfall and Miss O. Pines. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Horsfall, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pines, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr P. O. Lawson and Miss A. T. Wragham. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Lawson, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wragham, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr R. G. Raw and Miss P. M. de L. Spence. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Raw, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Spence, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Dr J. A. Serpell and Miss J. A. Feaver. The engagement is announced between John, son of Dr and Mrs Serpell, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Julia, daughter of Dr and Mrs Feaver, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

Mr J. B. Steel and Miss S. R. Fraser. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Steel, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fraser, of 10, St. Paul's, Wiltshire.

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Part of the Michelangelo drawing discovered in Switzerland.

Michelangelo sketches are discovered

By Huon Mallalieu
A large and important drawing by Michelangelo which was unknown to scholars has recently been brought to light in Switzerland. It is a drawing of a figure, possibly a saint, and is believed to be a preparatory sketch for a larger work. The drawing was discovered in a collection of sketches belonging to a Swiss collector.

Although the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana is world famous, the drawings in its collection escaped the attention of scholars until 1980, when Mr Noel Anselmy, head of Christie's prints and drawings department, was called in to catalogue the collection. He discovered the sketches and brought them to the attention of the Bodmer family.

The black chalk drawing of a figure, with a head and a male figure, is a preparatory sketch for a larger work. It is believed to be a sketch for a figure in a larger work, possibly a saint or a hero. The drawing is in black chalk on a light-colored paper.

Mr Philip Kitchley, a journalist for the Sunday Times, was named as the discoverer of the sketches. He was investigating the affairs of the Bodmer family and discovered the sketches while looking through their collection.

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'Flop' wins award for best new musical

By Our Theatre Reporter
The 1980 drama critics' award for the best new musical was given yesterday to Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, which was described as "the most awarded flop in the history of the theatre".

Sweeney Todd, which won great critical acclaim both on Broadway and in London, closed in the West End last November with heavy losses after a run of four months and a half.

The annual awards selected by the drama critics were formerly organized by the defunct magazine, *Plays and Players*; they have been taken over by the quarterly magazine, *Drama*.

The award for the best new play was shared by Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser*, originally staged by the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, Tom Kempinski's *Duet for One*, originally staged at the Bush Theatre, and Michael Frayn's *Mojo*, first seen at the Lyric, Hammersmith, which was also pronounced best comedy of the year.

The best revival was adjudged to be the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Julius and the Pack*, which was played in the West End at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and the award for the best performance by an actor was given to the actor who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by an actor.

The award for the best performance by an actress was given to the actress who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by an actress. The award for the best performance by a supporting actor was given to the actor who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by a supporting actor.

The award for the best performance by a supporting actress was given to the actress who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by a supporting actress. The award for the best performance by a supporting actor was given to the actor who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by a supporting actor.

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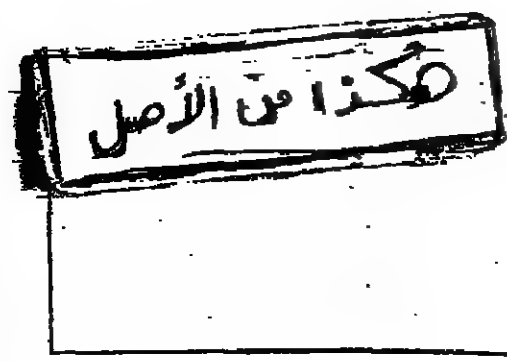
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Fiat plans new range of trucks for UK market, Page 18



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Battle over Denmark's oil industry, page 19

Stock markets

FT Ind 458.6 up 5.0 pts
FT Gilt 88.33 unchanged

Sterling

\$2.4195 up 125 points
Index 80.2 up 0.1

Dollar

Index 88.8 down 0.1
DM 2.0060 down 15 pts

Gold

\$363.50 down \$4

Money

3 month sterling 14 1/4
3 month Euro-S 18 1/2-18 3/4
6 month Euro-S 17 1/2-17 3/4

Arguments over funding put EEC steel industry quotas at risk

By Peter Hill
Editorial

Disagreements have emerged among EEC governments over the funding of social payments to steelworkers made redundant as a result of restructuring of the industry. The arguments could lead to further problems over measures introduced by the EEC Commission to stabilize the industry through a system of production quotas and controls on steel imports.

Last year, amid deepening crisis in the European steel industry and the failure of the main steel producers to agree on voluntary production cuts aimed at reducing over production and lifting prices, the Commission took the unprecedented step of invoking Article 58 of the Treaty of Paris which gives it the right to impose production quotas, although eventually the Germans reluctantly agreed to accept the emergency measures which are fixed to run to the end of June.

But the amount of funds paid into the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which is geared to a levy on production, has fallen short of the calls made on the budget for readaptation payments to be made to redundant steelworkers.

The British and French steel industries have been the major claimants for readaptation benefits—£58m has so far been paid out to United Kingdom steelworkers in the form of income support benefits.

As part of the overall package incorporated in the "manifesto" measures, the EEC proposed further assistance from the ECSC towards the cost of restructuring the industry. This aid was designed to cover payments for early retirements, and some short time working.

The Commission attempted to secure additional finance by transfer from the general EEC budget to the ECSC budget, and the United Kingdom has already lodged a claim for £85m as a Community contribution.

US bid for loss-making Inveresk paper group

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Georgia-Pacific Corporation, the United States forest products group, has made an agreed 35p a share bid for Inveresk Group. The bid values Inveresk's ordinary share capital at £7.1m.

Inveresk, the loss-making paper, packaging and stationery group, announced last week talks were under way and might lead to an offer. Since then its shares have risen from 24 1/2p to 35p, although the closed 15p lower at 33 1/2p yesterday.

Georgia-Pacific is offering Inveresk shareholders either cash, Georgia-Pacific common stock or a mixture of the two. It is also offering 60p in cash for the first cumulative preference shares and 15p cash for the second cumulative preference shares.

Directors of Inveresk, advised by S. G. Warburg, the merchant bankers, are recommending the offer and accepting in respect of their own 19.125 ordinary shares.

However, Mr Edward Nassar, one of Inveresk's main shareholders, with nearly 14 per cent, was reported yesterday as being unhappy with the terms.

The bid is conditional on Inveresk's losses before tax but including extraordinary items not exceeding £7m. An estimate of the losses for 1980 will be included in the formal offer document.

Inveresk made a loss of £1.6m in the first half of 1980 and passed the interim dividend. Half this loss was accounted for by write-offs and closure costs.

However, trading continued to worsen, leading to further closures and redundancies. This means that losses in the second half of 1980 will have been much greater than in the first half.

Mr Thomas Corrigan, Inveresk chairman, said there had been over 600 redundancies during 1980, bringing the group's workforce down to about 2,000.

Apart from redundancy costs, there have also been further heavy write-offs of fixed assets, and the group has suffered from high interest charges on borrowings which have increased during the year.

Georgia-Pacific is based in Portland, Oregon, and had sales of \$5,200m in 1979 and net income of \$37m. It is capitalized at roughly \$2,500m.

Rowe Rudd to abandon broking and widen financial services

By Ronald Pullen

Changes in stockbroking over the next few years have led Rowe Rudd, one of the City's more flamboyant firms, to seek out a new future in corporate financial services.

The three-partner firm announced yesterday that it would cease to trade as a member firm of the Stock Exchange from March 13 and would be offering "a range of corporate, financial and investment services."

Mr Tony Rudd, senior partner and well-known for his individualistic investment letters and latterly his column in *The Spectator*, explained last night that the firm's business spanned various activities. "We don't think we can be in them all at once and have chosen to abandon stockbroking."

He expected that pressures on small brokers would mount in the 1980s as foreign brokers started to compete more vigorously for business and an unfavourable outcome to the proposed reform of the Stock Exchange rule book to the Restrictive Practices Court next year could lead to the sort of commission cutting and "unbundling" of stockbroking services that had happened on Wall Street.

He denied that it was purely financial pressures that had forced the decision on the firm, but it was a blow to Rowe Rudd when its three-man oil team defected to Fiske & Co. two years ago.

Rowe Rudd has been a member of the Stock Exchange since 1969. The firm has 35-40 full-time employees, as well as several who work for it on commission. Around half the staff will be offered jobs in the revamped company.

As with other brokers, Rowe Rudd has been steadily encroaching into the corporate finance sphere. It also has Middle East contacts which Mr Tony Rudd hopes to develop.

Rowe Rudd's move is likely to increase speculation that another round of stockbroking mergers is on the way.

Rumours persist of informal talks between a number of firms as brokers generally grapple with the problem of rising costs, static commission charges for the last two years and the likelihood of a much quieter period in both gilts and equity turnover in the year ahead.

Exchange delay on current cost accounts

The Stock Exchange Council voted yesterday to postpone its requirement that listed companies should produce current cost accounts (CCA) alongside conventional historic figures.

Originally the Stock Exchange had ruled that companies should produce current cost figures at both the half-year and full-year stage starting this year.

Because of objections, and the Inland Revenue's decision not to have its stock relief proposals on CCA figures, the council shelved its plans for producing interim CCA figures for a year last November.

Uncertainties over CCA have led the Stock Exchange to put off a decision on full year CCA figures for 12 months.

Trident profits up

Trident Television, the commercial Independent Broadcasting Authority has ordered to take control of Yorkshire Television and Tyne-Tees, raised its turnover from £64.45m in 1979m and pretax profits from £7.51m to £9.13m in the year to last September.

The gross dividend rises from 4.95p to 5.72p a share.

Financial Editor, page 19

Refinery talks

Talks were held in London yesterday between senior management of Tate and Lyle and representatives of the Ship Floor section committee at their Lane refinery in Liverpool, amid growing speculation that the plant could be facing closure with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Dumping appeal

Asahi Chemical Co. has appealed against a United States International Trade Commission ruling that it "dumped" its synthetic fibres in the American market, a company official said in Tokyo.

Continuing decline

Sales by builders' merchants during November were down by almost 24 per cent on the same month in 1979. Monthly sales have been dropping since last February.

Itel bankruptcy

In the San Francisco bankruptcy court, Judge Lloyd Klug has appointed a creditors' committee for Itel Corporation and set a meeting of creditors for February 24.

Swedish bank rate up

Sweden today raises its bank rate by two points to 12 per cent. The last change was on January 18 last year, when the rate went up by one point.

Quango abolished

Mr Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, announced the abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council, established six years ago.

Wall Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 950.68, down 20.31 on Wall Street yesterday. Some experts suggested that the Presidential "post-inauguration blues" and a let-down after the hotspots flew out of Iran were responsible for the drop.

Mr Austin Bunch tipped to be new chairman of Electricity Council

By John Huxley and Bill Johnston

A new chairman for the Electricity Council is expected to be named by the Government in the next few days. He will succeed Sir Francis Tombs, who announced his resignation from the £48,000-a-year post last October.

Sir Francis relinquished his appointment at the end of last year, instead of completing his term of office, which was due to run to March, 1982. He left because of the Government's decision not to reorganize the electricity supply industry in England and Wales.

Since his departure, the council has been under the direction of Mr Austin Bunch, deputy chairman. In recent weeks Mr Bunch has emerged as the most likely choice of Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, to fill the vacancy of chairman.

Other names have been canvassed, most of people already working within the electricity supply industry. They have included members of the Electricity Council who are also board members.

Mr Bunch, who was made a CBE in 1978, became deputy chairman of the Electricity Council in 1976, and a year later was appointed chairman of British Electricity International, the overseas subsidiary arm of the council. Earlier, he worked for almost 30 years with the Southern Electricity Board.

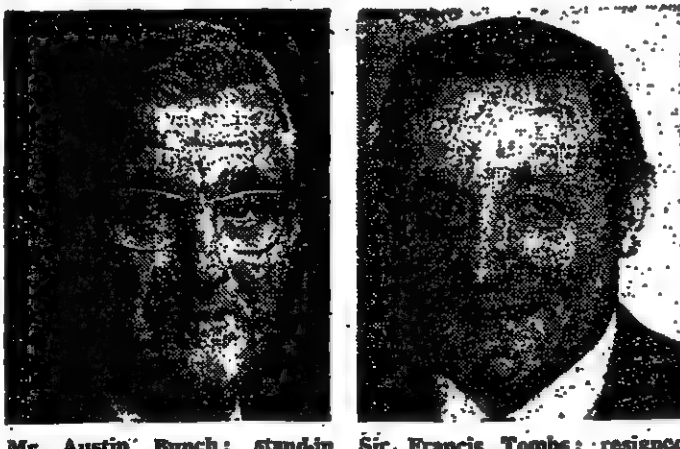
Wherever the new chairman is, he will be heading a crucial sector, with a recent history of unhappiness and tension especially in its dealings with Parliament. Its income last year was more than £6,000m. It has net assets worth more than £7,000m, and about 158,000 employees.

The Electricity Council has a largely advisory role within the supply industry, which also comprises the Central Electricity Generating Board, responsible for the bulk supply of electricity, and 12 area boards which supply power to consumers.

Sir Francis was invited to become chairman of the council on the understanding that the organization would be changed by legislation, after the report of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry in January 1976.

The Labour Government failed to introduce the reorganization of the industry would be changed by legislation, after the report of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry in January 1976.

Among the problems requiring attention by the new chairman will be the extent of capacity cutbacks needed because of falling demand, and pricing policy.



Mr Austin Bunch: stand-in chairman

for almost 30 years with the Southern Electricity Board. Wherever the new chairman is, he will be heading a crucial sector, with a recent history of unhappiness and tension especially in its dealings with Parliament. Its income last year was more than £6,000m. It has net assets worth more than £7,000m, and about 158,000 employees.

China banks launch credit cards

Hongkong, Jan 20.—China joined the credit card generation today by issuing its first plastic money.

The cards, known in Chinese as Prosperity Card and in English as Federal Card, are being issued by the state-owned Nanyang Commercial Bank and usage is restricted to China, Hongkong and the nearby Portuguese colony of Macao.

A bank spokesman said the credit cards were for the convenience of increasing numbers of visitors to China. Holders would be able to draw cash up to \$1,000 in Chinese currency from Bank of China branches in Shanghai, Peking, Canton, Tianjin and Hangzhou. The bank has branches at airports, shopping centres and hotels.

The bank said that accounts will be settled in Hongkong currency. Like other Western credit cards, the new cards are accepted by shops, department stores and restaurants.

Applicants for cards are required to have an annual income of not less than about £3,300.

Chinese living in China are eligible for the cards.—AP-Dow Jones.

Three-day week for Land-Rover at Solihull

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Short-time working affecting so much of the car industry has reached BL's Land-Rover plant at Solihull where 1,200 workers have been put on to a three-day week, which could last for several months.

A Land-Rover spokesman said: "While car factories everywhere have been on short-time for months past, we have been able to maintain five-day working. But with 80 per cent of our production going overseas, it was inevitable that the recession would begin to bite sooner or later."

"Not all sections are affected. Production of Range Rovers and kits of parts for the 25 Land-Rover assembly plants overseas is continuing on a five-day basis. Kits account for 40 per cent of our production, as we are still doing a lot better than most car makers."

But the introduction of short-time has raised union fears that redundancies will follow in the spring. Mr Michael Hodgkinson, managing director of Land-Rover, has told shop stewards that while redundancies are not necessary at present, he cannot give a guarantee for the future. Everything would depend on demand.

Land-Rover is in the middle of a £225m investment programme designed to increase output by 75 per cent. Despite the slump, it is pressing ahead to be in a position to market aggressively when sales recover.

A new £20m assembly works will begin producing Range Rovers within the next few weeks. It will double the present capacity of 300 a week, and will be accompanied by a major advertising programme to inform motorists that for the first time since the big cross-country vehicle was launched 10 years ago it can now be bought "off the shelf."

Vauxhall vote: A meeting of 1,100 of the 4,500 AUEW members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside last night voted to reject "whole day" a plan for 8,900 redundancies throughout the company.

Ellesmere Port is expected to provide 2,900 of the job losses. The remainder will be at plants in Luton and Dunstable, which traditionally look to the Merseyside factory to take the lead in any stand against the company.

Mr Dave Thompson, the AUEW convenor at Ellesmere Port, said he would be putting his members' views to Vauxhall chiefs tomorrow.



Sir Henry Chilver: lessons from shrink

Latest indicators set back hopes of economic upturn

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Government hopes that the economy will start to expand in the spring received a jolt from the latest set of cyclical indicators published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. However, the indicators show that an upturn will not occur until later in the year—more tentative and go against other indications from the cyclical indicator series.

The short-term leading indicators for November dropped to 94.2, sharply lower than the figure in October. A drop in the level of car registrations was the main cause.

Traditionally, the shorter leading indicators show that the economy has reached bottom about seven months before the drop in output actually ends.

If this traditional relationship holds, the latest figures suggest that output will still be falling by June.

However, in recent periods this relationship has been erratic and it could be that the shorter leading indicators are failing to pick up signs of the recovery. The index for longer leading indicators rose in November yet again, continuing the

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

J. Brown	5p to 6 1/2p	Letsat	5p to 5 1/2p
Couch Grp	8p to 15p	Massey-Ferr	10p to 20p
Dowty Grp	8p to 15p	NR Electric	13p to 15p
Global Nat Res	15p to 43p	Unitech	15p to 25p
Johnson & F	1p to 18p	J. Webb	11p to 23p

Falls

Boustead	5p to 10 1/2p	Mulholland	25p to 75p
Canfield Corp	15p to 60p	Peko Wallend	25p to 44p
Hammerley	5p to 16p	Western Mining	12p to 26 1/2p
Inveresk Grp	11p to 33 1/2p	Weeks Petrol	15p to 41p
MIM	5p to 19 1/2p	Viakomica	10p to 26 1/2p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	deals	buys	deals
Australia \$	2.15	2.15	Norway Kr	13.07
Austria Sch	2.15	2.15	Portugal Esc	135.00
Belgium Fr	80.25	76.75	South Africa R	2.06
Canada \$	2.34	2.34	Spain Ptas	198.50
Denmark Kr	15.40	14.70	Sweden Kr	11.10
Finland Mk	9.25	9.25	Switzerland Fr	4.52
France Fr	11.47	11.02	USA \$	2.47
Germany DM	4.99	4.77	Yugoslavia Dnr	85.00
Greece Dr	127.00	120.00		
Hongkong \$	15.80	12.20		
Ireland Pd	1.34	1.26		
Italy Lit	3420.00	3310.00		
Japan Yen	514.00	488.00		
Netherlands Gld	5.41	5.18		

New town offers stimulating atmosphere for high technology companies Warrington to build another 'science park'

The evocative phrase "science park" emerged again yesterday with the news that Warrington New Town is to build a second one, so successful has its first version been. The concept—to attract high-technology companies to cluster together in a campus-like atmosphere, and indeed often in proximity to a university campus—is not new, but has been slow to take root successfully in Britain.

It was a fashionable idea 10 or more years ago, when various attempts began to be made to emulate the successful science-park enterprises of the United States. Warrington's inclusion of a science park in its several separate industrial employment areas as part of the new town development is one of the few that have succeeded in this country.

Other successful ones are at Cambridge and at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. One which started well but faded away in its original form was at Peterlee.

Warrington's decision to build a second science park for high-technology companies is part of a continued expansion of industrial capacity in the area. Despite the recession, the town exceeded its job-creation target of 1,500 jobs in 1980, for the third consecutive year, by creating employment for 2,200 people.

The town's first science park, at Birchwood, is now almost complete. All available building land has been taken up, though there is still space available in the park's Genesis building, which provides leased communal facilities for science-based companies.

Companies on the park include British Nuclear Fuels, Data General Digital Equipment Company, Engineering Polymers, MacVal, Transer Owen, Carborundum and Instrumentation Laboratory (UK). In the Genesis building the tenants include LSI Computers, Varian Associates and Control Data Corporation.

Birchwood Science Park, one of four employment areas within Warrington

Trade official's Soviet trip heralds change of attitude

By David Spanier

A senior official from the Department of Trade is to visit Moscow early next week, with the aim of reviving Anglo-Soviet commercial relations and preparing the way for a meeting at ministerial level in London in May.

The trip by Mr Gavin Dick, Under-Secretary for Trade, announced yesterday, is the first inter-governmental meeting on trade to take place since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. As such, it represents a distinct change of attitude by the Foreign Office, as regards dealings with the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in his original announcement of restrictions taken after the Soviet invasion, stated that "the Government's view is that all trade should be pursued on a basis of mutual advantage."

The Department of Trade said yesterday that Mr Dick was going to discuss "the basic issues", not only to encourage trade between the two countries but also to review the possibility of arranging a ministerial meeting of the Joint Commission on British and Soviet Economic and Industrial Cooperation. This last has not been fixed yet but seems likely.

Trade has been languishing, it is felt, and with European competition being renewed, Britain does not want to be left behind, an official said yesterday.

The restrictions imposed after the Afghanistan invasion and which are still operative, included non-renewal of the British-Soviet credit agreement of 1975, and the EEC decision to curb grain exports.



Record exports for Toyota and Nissan

Toyota and Nissan have reported from Tokyo record exports and production for 1980.

Toyota said vehicle exports rose 29 per cent last year to a record 1.78 million from 1.38 million in 1979, while Nissan said exports last year were a record 1.47 million, up 25 per cent from 1.15 million. It exported 704,600 vehicles to the United States last year, up 14.1 per cent and 128,300 to Saudi Arabia, up 19.1 per cent.

Nissan said it shipped 615,000 to the United States, up 23.5 per cent, and 102,800 to Britain, down 7.8 per cent.

NSW coal project

The New South Wales state government has approved the formation of a company to finance and construct a \$A230m (about £113m) coal loader at Kooragang island, Newcastle, Mr Neville Wran, the Premier, said in Sydney. The state will take a 20 per cent stake in the scheme.

US building starts

New building starts, one of the key United States indicators, dropped 1 per cent in December, while 9 per cent fewer building permits were issued, the Commerce Department said in Washington. This was the first fall in building starts since May. The decline was attributed to high interest rates.

Finnair buys DC10

Finnair, the Finnish national airline, has announced the purchase of a new intercontinental range McDonnell Douglas DC-10 series 30 Tri-Jet aircraft as a part of a growth programme including a service to Los Angeles.

US merchant fleet

The United States merchant fleet increased by a million tons last year to 24 million tons with 727 vessels, the Commerce Department announced in Washington. American shipyards had orders for or were producing 40 ships totalling 1,500,000 tons.

After a year of declining sales, Iveco hopes for a change of fortune

Turbo-truck drive into UK market

Iveco, Europe's second largest heavy truck maker, which suffered estimated losses of \$50m (£22m) last year, is hoping for a significant turnaround in its fortunes in 1981 and aims to oust Volvo as the leading importer into the United Kingdom.

The company, like most European premium truck manufacturers, is putting on a brave face after a year which has seen a big decline in sales and a fierce price-cutting war that looks set to continue throughout the next few months.

Iveco, owned by Fiat of Italy and set up in 1974 as the first pan-European commercial vehicle company, is soon to launch a new range of turbo-charged trucks with which it hopes to carve a greater slice of a diminishing market. In doing so, it joins Leyland Vehicles, which has just begun a big European sales drive for its award-winning T45 Roadtrain truck and is due to introduce a medium-weight version in the next few days.

Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, big names in the heavy truck sector, are among others who will bring new products to the market in the coming weeks and will join in the battle for the favours of the Continent's road hauliers and fleet operators.

The strategy adopted by truck manufacturers is two-pronged: the introduction of lighter weight, more economical vehicles,

often equipped with turbo-charged engines, and a concentration on driver comfort and ease and cheapness of servicing.

The fight for sales in Europe is expected to be particularly intense. The London-based Economic Models Group forecast recently that after a five per cent drop in 1980, total commercial vehicle sales in the major European markets of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom would decline by a further 8.4 per cent this year to just over 894,000. The next peak in the demand cycle is predicted to occur in 1984, with total sales of nearly 1.1m.

In Britain the state of the market is far more gloomy. Total commercial vehicle sales were down by 11.4 per cent last year, with the heavy end of the market being the worst afflicted. Registrations of big trucks and articulated units were down 23 per cent against 1979 and in December alone suffered a fall of 47 per cent on a year earlier.

Against this background, attention has once again been focused on the apparent over-supply of lorries in Europe (there are at least 16 heavy truck manufacturers) and on the arguments for further rationalization and mergers.

Iveco was formed from the commercial

vehicle interests of Fiat, OM, Unic, Lancia and Magirus Deutz in a bid to combat competition not only from Mercedes, the market leader in heavy trucks, but also from America and Japan. Iveco executives said this week that potential new partners for the group would always be considered, as would the possibility of establishing assembly plants in other countries, particularly the United States and China.

But it is thought that the most likely attempts at rationalization will be through greater collaboration on the development and production of components similar to the deal concluded last year between Leyland Vehicles and Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen (ZF) of West Germany, the world's leading manufacturer of gearboxes.

Last year, Iveco sold 2,459 heavy trucks in Britain (3,796 in 1979) while Volvo and Mercedes had the same sales total of 2,984. In 1979, Volvo was the leading importer with sales of 4,052.

Falling sales have led to a spate of discounting throughout Europe and many customers are being offered price reductions of up to 18 per cent. Italy, which has a home market largely protected against imports, is one of the few countries to escape the worst effects of the price war.

Edward Townsend

Call for curb on 'excess' money stock

By Our Financial Staff

The excess growth in the money supply over the past eight months should not be allowed to stay in the system, W. Greenwell, the leading firm argues in the latest edition of its *Monetary Bulletin*.

The brokers suggest that if the authorities do not take action to remove the excess money, then it will eventually work its way into prices.

At the moment, however, Greenwell believes that the trough of the present recession is unlikely to occur before the middle of the year, and that the authorities still have time to remove the "excess" money, which is mainly represented by the high level of liquid personal sector savings.

If inflation is to be prevented from rebounding, the brokers say that the personal sector must be persuaded to switch its short term money holdings into longer term investments.

This could be done in three ways: by pressing sales of existing debt instruments, such as National Savings and Grannys Bonds; by experimenting with new debt instruments, such as 12 month Treasury bills, and an extension of indexing. Greenwell put the underlying rate of growth in sterling M3 between April and December at 14 per cent, or an annual rate of 22 per cent.

50 per cent rate rises unthinkable, CBI says

By John Huxley

Business leaders yesterday gave a warning that further large rate rises by local authorities will lead to many more jobs lost and cuts in investment.

The Confederation of British Industry said that forecasts of an average rate rise of about 20 per cent, and rises of up to 50 per cent in some areas, were "unthinkable".

Business, being adversely affected, it calculated that the rate burden on business is likely to be equivalent to one third or more of the real profits earned by industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom during the present financial year.

"Many businesses just cannot afford to pay more," Mr John Monkman, chairman of the CBI's rating and valuation committee, told a conference on rating held in London. "In the current financial year, business rates have increased by an average of 25 per cent. In some areas the increase is as much as 30 to 40 per cent. A further 20 per cent next year is unthinkable."

Mr Monkman said that rates now represented the second heaviest impost on business, which was expected to meet 45 per cent of the total national rate bill in 1981-82. In other words, businesses must find £4,200m—which on its own is equivalent to a whole array of government taxes.

Rate rises have been the subject of a sustained campaign by the CBI in recent months. It has also been seeking a cut in the National Insurance surcharge levied on company payrolls and moves to reduce the burden on rising energy costs on industry, as well as a further reduction in interest rates.

The rates campaign has so far commanded relatively little national attention, but has been vigorously prosecuted by the CBI's regional groups. Apart from acting as local "watchdogs", they have attempted to alert the public to the reasons behind rate rises, and in some cases offered to check local authority bookkeeping, working through rates liaison groups.

The CBI has argued for some time that business is bearing the brunt of the Government's counter-inflation policies. For every 12 people in 1,000 made redundant in the private sector, fewer than one in 1,000 had lost their jobs in the public sector.

At the same time, many of the CBI's members are anxious to ensure that capital projects, rather than current spending on salaries and wages, do not bear a disproportionate share of expenditure cut backs by public authorities. The construction industry, for example, is by tradition heavily dependent on the public sector for contracts, and does not want to see these pared further.

Enterprise zone for the North

By Peter Hill

The Government is expected to announce shortly the location of a site for a tenth enterprise zone in the North of England.

The first nine zones, developed by the enterprise zone concept—launched by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the March Budget last year—were taken a stage further yesterday with an announcement by Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services.

Mr King said that formal invitations had been issued to the City of Salford, Trafford Metropolitan District Council, and the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford to prepare enterprise zone schemes.

These are the first zones in England for which statutory invitations have been issued, although a formal invitation was made last month for detailed schemes in the lower Swansea Valley.

The Salford-Trafford zone will occupy nearly 800 acres of Salford Docks and Trafford Park in Greater Manchester. It will cover about 340 acres in the Blackbrook Valley in the West Midlands.

Other possible zones under consideration include Clydebank, Belfast, Corby, Speke on Merseyside, Newcastle and Gateshead and the Isle of Dogs in London's dockland.

Oracle move to charge advertisers

Independent Television is formulating plans to sell advertising on its teletext service, Oracle, after April this year.

The new service is expected to raise about £5m each year for Oracle by the end of 1984, although it is still early to assess the response of advertisers.

At the moment advertising appears without charge as part of an information service. In future advertisers will buy pages.

The change in the Oracle service results from two clauses in the new Broadcasting Act. These clauses take effect from February 1 and effectively allow the service to raise revenue through advertising, although the limit within which that can be done has not been clearly defined.

Management at Oracle is awaiting a decision from the Home Office which will define how much advertising will be allowed. The management has requested that it be allowed to devote 15 per cent of the total number of pages to advertising and also be allowed to sell "two-line slogans" at the bottom of most of the remaining editorial pages.

There is no question of editorial pages being sponsored by advertising, according to the Oracle management. The request for 15 per cent of the teletext service's pages to be devoted to advertising is thought justified. It compares favourably with that allowed on television—six minutes in every hour (10 per cent)—similar to commercial radio with nine minutes (15 per cent).

Oracle is also awaiting the Home Office decisions on whether the teletext service can use two more of the unused 625 lines that transmit television signals. There are in all 20 unused lines of which two are at present being used by Oracle. It wants to have further one to increase its coverage and another for use by the television regions to increase their own information.

Philips, the television manufacturer, in its surveys on teletext has concluded that a strong local content is needed in the service. At a teletext conference in London last week Oracle committed the service to such local content. The BBC was unable to make that commitment about teletext. It is also thought highly unlikely that the BBC would use its teletext service as a vehicle for raising revenue, although raising revenue from Cee-fax would interfere little with the programme presentation of the BBC many in the corporation view it as the thin end of the wedge.

Bill Johnstone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High priced energy for industry

From Mr A. F. D. Ferguson

Sir, With a debate on energy due in the Commons tomorrow it may now be appropriate to try to concentrate minds on some of the important issues about energy affecting British industry and reply to the points made in your columns by Mr Tony Speller MP on January 13. I fear the arguments he advanced may be the basis of the Government's case in the debate.

My case basically is that a high priced energy policy is excellent if every other competing country acts similarly but if only the United Kingdom pursues it the result is a slow lingering death for large segments of efficient British industry.

About 40 per cent of British industry employing 21 million people use energy in production as opposed to ambient heating. In certain of the key industries in this country, the cost of energy is as high as 30 per cent of the sales value of the product. For some reason I am unable to understand, our elected representatives, including your correspondent, Tony Speller MP, refused to believe that these users in this country are paying on average 20 per cent more for energy than their competitors on the Continent and more than 30 per cent than in North America.

Reports from independent bodies such as various sector working parties of the National Economic Development Council and the Confederation of British Industry, have produced these figures by comparing invoices between identical plants in the various countries to most reasonable peoples' satisfaction. Yet rather than tackle the problem critics argue about the magnitude of the differences. Rather than explore the reasons, either directly (fuel excise tax) or indirectly (financial targets set for the nationalised industries), they and government advisers talk about subsidies. Similarly,

rather than examine the present market pricing policies of, for example, British Gas Corporation, which ensure that there is no effective competition between fuels, they talk about industry asking for government controls.

I hope that the Commons debate may see some constructive approach—as opposed to the fairly sterile argument. A final thought: in what other country could a bulk user of gas in industry pay 35p a therm to heat its kilns while its employees pay 22p per therm to heat their homes, as happens here in Britain?

Yours faithfully,

A. F. D. FERGUSON, Chief Executive, Boyle & Son Limited, Stonebridge Mills, Stonebridge Lane, Leeds LS12 4QW, January 20.

From Mr Luke Georgiou Sir, As Mr Speller (January 13) rightly points out, a major question on the current debate over fuel costs for United Kingdom industry is whether the energy efficiency of British firms is comparable with that of overseas competitors. However, the level of efficiency, as such a consequence of circumstances imposed upon the companies as it is a result of their own actions. This is particularly evident in the argument over gas prices, which have been subject to the policies of successive governments.

A crude measure of efficiency is the ratio between the heat equivalent of the quantity of fuel consumed by an industry and some index of industrial production, generally known as the energy/output ratio. Apart from the statistical problems involved in compiling such data, the result is affected by the choice of fuels. For example, conversion of a process from coal or fuel oil to gas normally leads to improved efficiency because the intrinsic qualities of gas make it easier to use a greater proportion of the heat content. This, together with other qualities such as convenience and cleanliness, contributes to give gas a "premium" value over the other fuels. In a normal economic situation the industrialist then assesses whether the increased efficiency justifies the additional cost and, depending upon the size of the premium, a proportion of users will change to gas.

The problems we are faced with at present, have their roots in the pricing policies adopted to achieve a rapid build-up of supplies from North Sea gasfields in the early 1970s. Gas was priced so cheaply that many industrial consumers converted who would not have done so otherwise. Now that the price is tending towards world market levels these consumers are finding a certain irreversibility in the change. Storage space for coal may have been disposed of, or the workforce in a foundry, say, may have become used to lower levels of pollution. Thus they find themselves tied to what, for them, are uneconomic fuels. For many industries the life of their fuel-using equipment also has some years to run.

The simple answer is to invest in new equipment to meet the changed circumstances, but the depressed state of many of the industries involved means that the capital is simply unavailable. For some in particular difficulty, such as the paper industry, this has been a long-term problem and, although savings have been made, one wonders whether the full potential available from new equipment has been realized. It is vital that future energy policy should be not a matter of supply and pricing but should also consider the ability of industry to respond to price changes. In the longer term it should also be seen as involving problems of investment and technological innovation for users as well as suppliers.

Yours faithfully, L. GEORGIOU, Programme of Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology, Department of Liberal Studies in Science, The University, Manchester M13 9 PL.

Stock relief and taxation

From Mr John A. Newman

Sir, The Inland Revenue published (in November 1980) a consultative paper on the future of stock relief and now the CCAB (Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies) has replied under the heading *Current cost accounts and taxation*.

Both these papers fail to analyse adequately the faults of the old and new reliefs. Stock relief under both systems arises simply from holding stock in itself. The main beneficiaries tend to be, therefore, supermarket and retail chain owners and others who hold large lines of stock. Furthermore, the larger the enterprise concerned the more able it is by its superior resources to manipulate the amount of stock on hand and hence the relief which accrues to it.

As an accountant I feel that in the tax system should not encourage bad business practices. Businesses should keep stocks to the minimum in both volume and value terms consistent with the needs of that business. Both forms of stock relief encourage the holding of excessive stocks to attract relief. A Conservative government should realize this, as should the CCAB.

The old relief accrued to businesses whether the stock concerned was financed by new business or not. This meant that some businesses which had a rapid trading cycle could receive the relief on stock paid for after the year end. Thus the proposals for the new relief contain restrictions when stock is financed by credit. These are, in my view, anomalous and misconceived. To take an example: if company "X" had borrowed £2m to finance the building of a new factory for expansion and employment of more individuals, as compared with an equivalent company that had not, company "X" would have its stock relief restricted. Is this the best way to formulate a tax relief?

The proposals state that the balance of the old relief will not be clawed back—rather these lucky businesses which have received stock relief over the last few years will receive a windfall. There seems to be no reasons why this should occur.

To conclude, I feel that in this period of recession, high unemployment and technological change, the system of tax reliefs in the United Kingdom should be tailored to encourage the assimilation of technological change and the employment of United Kingdom individuals, not the holding of stock.

Yours faithfully, JOHN NEWMAN, Kingsgate House, 115 High Born, London, WC1V 6JJ.

Loans for small business

From Mr A. G. W. Scott

Sir, The experimental government loan guarantee scheme is, of course, to be welcomed but perhaps one who has spent considerable part of his working life rearing and rescuing "small" businesses may offer a constructive comment.

New businesses on the whole do not find insuperable difficulty in raising loan capital if well founded and managed. Their difficulty is nearly always to find the interest and principal repayments out of taxed profits and leave enough behind for the business to grow out of its own resources. True, there may subsequently come a time when further loans are more difficult to obtain because they would form too great a proportion of the whole capital structure—outweighing by too much the proprietors' stake, whether shares or partners' capital.

The cure for both troubles is the same; it is for the Chancellor to devise a scheme for the proprietors of a growing

business, for an initial period, to be untaxed or taxed on a favourable sliding scale, on profits earned which they are prepared to leave in the business as permanent capital. This was how businesses found the means of growth in the days of low rates of tax, and somehow a climate has got to be re-created in which a growing business can feed and grow on itself.

It should not be beyond the wit of a Conservative government, with the avowed intention of helping small businesses, to find a way which will do this without abuse or too much red tape. After all, this would be the Chancellor's own seed corn; little successful businesses grow into big successful businesses, who pay a lot of tax—when they are on their feet.

Yours faithfully, A. G. W. SCOTT, 5 Breakspere, College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7NB, January 17.

From Mr Edward A. Kalfayan Sir, Mr Malby's letter (January 5) and the many others, rooting for lower interest rates do not disclose the main counter-argument.

I will borrow any sum up to six figures from him at higher rates than he complains of. Will he lend it to me?

Presumably, he is a borrower. It looks quite different when a lender. At today's interest rates anybody who invests money is still putting it into somebody else's sleeve. From time to time the size of the holes change but there is always a net drain. By the time the principal is returned the erosion of capital by cost of interest after tax. He knows that. But with so many putting their money on deposit in banks or building societies at 11 per cent or less, no one

BL incentives

From Mr Irving Stone

Sir, Having read Mr Penhalligon's letter (January 15) suggesting that the Government promise the workforces of BL that all profits made in the next five years would be distributed among them and that his observation that "the trouble is hardly any British Leyland employee believes it will ever make any money and even if it does they know it will not directly benefit them". I can only confess to a feeling of incredulity when I see that Mr Penhalligon's official title is Liberal Party spokesman for industry.

I trust that this contradictory, confused logic is not representative of his party's other policies. Yours truly, IRVING STONE, Flat 1, 13 Old Church Street, London, SW3, January 15.

market acceptance by large companies but without asset backing still has no friend.

If interest rates really are too high there must be many wishing to lead my company money at today's interest rates—or higher. Please let them go higher still and shake out the underserving borrower with a poor project who would be up assets to no good purpose. A few fingers may be burned in the property market, for there the sieves have been held out successfully for so many years that serious distortions have taken place in our productive ability and the country is paying for it now.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD A. KALFAYAN, Managing Director, Letterstream Limited, 45 Conduit Street, London W1R 9FF.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Exchange markets wait for US policy changes

Ahead of the release of the American hostages and the unfreezing of Iranian financial assets, foreign exchange markets have been quiet and cautious. The general feeling in markets seems to be that the freeing of the Iranian assets is unlikely to lead to any sudden switching of funds in a seriously destabilizing way. For a start, that would hardly be in the Iranians' own interest. There does, however, seem to have been a certain amount of hedging, with sterling one of the main beneficiaries so far.

If the Iranian situation has been uppermost in the market's mind for the past few days, it is, of course, a transient consideration. What markets are really going to have to get to grips with over the coming months is the evolution of the economic policy of the new United States Government.

At the moment we seem to have the prospect of fiscal risk-taking set against a monetary authority confirmed in its resolve to control the monetary aggregates. That at least should make for a fascinating year ahead, and almost certainly a tricky one for investors in dollar markets.

almost as heavy as that incurred when it attempted to force up the department store group's dividend last June.

Is it too much to hope that the pantomime is now over? Having reportedly cost Fraser shareholders £1m so far in defending its decisions against Lomho, Lomho should appreciate that further moves of this kind could be judged rash and not only in the Fraser boardroom.

Followers of Mr Rowland's tactical abilities will naturally maintain that Lomho has only been softening-up Fraser for a final blow—a bid for the 70 per cent of shares it does not already own. That bid may indeed be on its way, but it is hard to see how Lomho's manoeuvres have altered Fraser's market profile as a bid prospect.

Fraser's share price fell 2p to 126p yesterday, where it is worth £190m in the market and still represents a very big bite indeed for Lomho which is capitalized at £248m. Indeed, if a bid had been his intention, Mr Rowland's timing looks badly awry. Fraser claims record trading last Christmas and its balance sheet has been strengthened by the



Mr Rowland, Lomho's chief executive, at yesterday's House of Fraser meeting in Glasgow.

£40m of sale and leaseback deals which Lomho attempted to block.

But whatever its long-term game-plan—if indeed it has one—Lomho must realise that now is the time to "put up or shut up" with regard to its perennial takeover suggestions. It should bid or call off its vendetta and allow Fraser's executives to run the store group if it is not to lay itself open to accusations of "harassment" and irresponsibility.

Inveresk: A foothold for an American

It is clear why Inveresk is recommending the 35p share bid from Georgia-Pacific. It has at best an erratic record—profits peaked at £4.7m in 1974 and have been on a downward trend ever since—and its shareholders saw dividends reduced in both 1978 and 1979 until last year's interim was finally omitted following half-year losses of £1.6m.

The recession in the paper and printing industry has also ensured that Inveresk's results for the second half of 1980 will be much worse than in the first half. There has been further retrenchment and nearly a quarter of the workforce was made redundant during 1980.

So with trading losses and redundancy and closure costs heading for £7m in 1980—and another difficult year in prospect—Inveresk had little choice but to recommend an offer pitched over two-fifths above the market price before the preliminary announcement of talks was made.

Georgia-Pacific, meanwhile, evidently wants a foothold in the European paper industry and has known Inveresk for a long time. It is paying £7.1m compared with assets of perhaps £12m after last year's losses but the puzzle is that the main attraction of Inveresk—much of whose industrial assets are fairly old—is its investment properties valued at £8.3m.

Presumably Georgia-Pacific will sell some of these off to pay off borrowings which will have risen sharply in 1980 from the £6.6m in the 1979 accounts—a course which Inveresk was already considering anyway.

Copenhagen

Legislation to be presented to the Folketing (the Danish parliament) later this month will dramatically speed up the exploration and exploitation of Denmark's offshore North Sea oil and gas reserves.

The move follows the decision last month by the Danish Social Democratic minority government to nationalize Denmark's North Sea fields after the breakdown of 10 months of difficult negotiations with A. P. Moeller, the private Danish industrial, shipping and prospecting concern, which at present exercises the concession exclusively.

The story of Denmark's North Sea offshore adventure is not without its romantic aspects. In 1932, according to a recently screened Danish television news documentary, Mr Thorvald Stauning, Denmark's first Social Democratic Prime Minister, fell in love with the United States envoy in Denmark, Mrs Ruth Bryan Owen. This led to an American friend of the ambassador, a Mr Frederick F. Ravlin, who was an eccentric engineer and self-styled oil prospector from Miami, landing the entire Danish onshore and offshore underground concession in 1935.

By 1962 the concession had changed hands several times to land back in Danish hands. A. P. Moeller then gained the entire concession for 50 years by agreement with the then Social Democratic government. In 1962 the full potential of the North Sea as a source of oil and gas energy was not realized.

Dissatisfied with Moeller's slow pace of the exploration of the North Sea offshore areas by Moeller, the (as that time also Social Democratic) government again held talks with the concern in 1976. These resulted in Moeller agreeing to return 10 per cent of the area every five years starting this year. A process which has already been embarked upon this month.

The latest round of negotiations on greater state control, initiated last February, collapsed irretrievably in mid-December.

Takeover battle for Denmark's North Sea oil



Two prime ministers closely involved in the history of the Danish oil fields: left, Mr Thorvald Stauning, whose friendship with the United States' youngest ambassador to Denmark led to the entire onshore and offshore concession being given to an American prospector in 1935; right, Mr Anker Jørgensen, the present prime minister, who believes that nationalization is in the country's interest.

ber after Moeller failed to agree to returning all unexplored offshore areas to the state by 1990, starting with 45 per cent in 1983. The state also insisted on the right to purchase 40 per cent of all oil and gas produced by Moeller, which exercises the concession through the so-called Danish Underground Consortium (DUC) in cooperation with Shell, Standard Oil and Texaco.

DUC has made a small number of oil finds and, as from this year, expects to produce some 2 million tonnes of oil per year from the North Sea.

The parties were also unable to reach agreement about state ownership of an offshore pipeline connecting the fields with the Jutland mainland.

The legislation will be in four stages, with the government appropriating the area yet unexplored areas of the North Sea which represent 80 per cent of the total Danish North Sea sector and leaving Moeller to exploit the 20 per cent which has been and is exploiting (largely

the south-west area fringing on the German sector, where the so-called Dan Vagn, Nils, Per, Tove, Gorm, Tyra, Roar, Adda and Lulu fields are located).

The next stage will give the state first refusal of half of all oil produced, while the third stage will compel the consortium to use state-owned and operated pipelines to land all North Sea oil. The first three stages of the legislation are to be passed before the summer recess.

The government also plans to present further legislation to parliament next October (stage four), altering Denmark's North Sea taxation and licensing terms to bring them more into line with British and Norwegian practices.

As regards state taxation, DUC is at present liable to pay only an 8.5 per cent royalty and 40 per cent corporate tax in the Danish state. Nor has the block system, such as is in operation in other countries' North Sea offshore fields, yet been intro-

duced for the leasing of areas to prospectors.

New companies will be offered licences in the nationalized area this spring and the Danish Ministry of Energy claims that a dozen have already shown interest. Moeller's reaction to the government's plans has been to threaten to sue for breach of contract and compensation, a claim which could, legal experts say, amount to a multi-million kroner sum.

DUC has to date invested some 6,000m kroner (£424m) in North Sea activities. Years of legal haggling and court cases are expected as Moeller also claims the expropriation to be unconstitutional, a fact which Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, dismisses on the grounds that the legislation is in the national interest.

By carefully taking over only unexplored areas of the North Sea and leaving Moeller the areas it is working the government hopes to render any expropriation compensation claim

from the company legally invalid.

Undeterred by the threats of legal action, Mr Jørgensen has also said that the leasing out of the newly nationalized areas of the Danish North Sea to new licensees will go on, regardless of the passing of the new Bill and not be subject to delay.

Backed by leftist parties, the government has a safe majority in parliament for the nationalization legislation, which is also strongly supported by Danish public opinion. Appeals by the other rightist parties for the government to reopen negotiations with Moeller were firmly rejected as unrealistic by the Prime Minister earlier this month.

Mr Jørgensen has ignored renewed calls this week from a majority of political parties to reopen negotiations with A. P. Moeller, after a statement by the director of the concern in the Conservative newspaper *Bertingste Tidende* last Sunday to the effect that the differences between Moeller and the government over new rules for the North Sea were minimal.

The Prime Minister reiterated yesterday that any new approach would have to come from Moeller and represent a radical improvement on the concern's previous stance, which he did not think was in the offering. Mr Jørgensen added that his government intended to press on with the new legislation, only consulting Moeller where necessary.

Danish North Sea oil output is expected to reach about 40,000 barrels per day in the early part of this decade, a modest yield compared with the 2 million barrels produced daily by Norway and Britain. None the less, when the Danish North Sea gas comes on stream in 1984, the North Sea will be providing 30 per cent of Denmark's total energy needs, rising to almost half by the end of the decade. This will make a vital contribution to the fuel requirements of the otherwise resourceless Denmark and ease its chronic balance of payments deficit.

Christopher Follett

Many bargain offers are not what they seem

Shops that are still breaking the law

Robin Young

Many of the bargains offered in January sales have been, if not false, illegal. A walk down Oxford Street produced 10 windows full of illegal sale price tickets in as many minutes.

Indeed, very few shops can claim to have price marking which complies with the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1979, a piece of legislation which has been held by many to be completely unenforceable.

The Department of Trade's explanatory notes—intended to guide enforcement officers through the order's complexities—themselves run to 94 closely typed foolscap pages and even then the advice offered leaves room for doubt about what would and what would not be caught under the order's terms.

Trading standards officers and businessmen alike claimed at the time of its introduction that the order could neither be understood nor enforced.

There is evidence, however, that the order brought in by the last Labour government on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading, is beginning to bite.

Though prosecutions under the Trade Descriptions Act have to date been rare, no one doubts that the order made under the Prices Act and its associated orders, what follows, therefore, is the most comprehensive summary as yet available of successful prosecutions for contraventions of the bargain offers order.

The results go some way to indicate more clearly what is really illegal now that the order is in force. They also show that it is likely to continue to be the favourite target for trading standards departments which do decide to

devote some priority to the order's enforcement.

The principal provisions of the order came into force on July 2, 1979. Eighteen months later there appear to have been 14 successful prosecutions for breaching the order. A handful more are in the pipeline.

The most signal success for the order's champions was certainly the case in west Yorkshire brought against MFI Furniture Centres, one of the companies whose advertising style fuelled the concern that led to the order's introduction.

MFI was fined £500 on each of ten counts arising from advertisements in which the company's "half price" sale, which it has shown that the prices charged were the same before, during and after the sale.

MFI was also among the victims claimed by the zealous enforcement officers in Croydon. There the company was fined £50 on each of three charges arising from a newspaper advertisement showing price comparisons with "normal MFI prices" which had in fact never been charged at the store concerned.

Croydon also chalked up fines of £10 on each of ten charges against a company called Vogue Interiors, which showed price tickets marked "sale without price" while it was showing any indication of what the previous price had been.

Implied and unspecified reductions of this kind are the most widespread offences against the Bargain Offers Order at present, but as yet there has been only one other successful prosecution on this score—in Devon where a local trader was fined £25 on each of four counts.

Croydon won a fine of £300 against Eastern Carpet Stores, which claimed to be selling carpet at a 54 per cent reduc-

tion, but had never charged the "usual price" it showed, and a penalty of £100 against Homecraft Retail, which used an illegal comparison with the manufacturers' alleged recommended price on an electrical appliance.

Comparisons with the manufacturer's recommended price are illegal on beds and mattresses, domestic electrical appliances and their counterparts in other goods, furniture and furnishings.

In Tyne and Wear Robert Anthony (Investment Jeweller) was fined £500 on ten charges for price indications on jewellery in which comparisons were made with what were said to be insurance valuations. Another case will be heard shortly in which the trader is expected to plead guilty, having used tickets saying: "Today's value X our price Y".

Statements which suggest that the retail price indicated is less than the goods are worth are banned by the order, even if what is claimed can be substantiated. A Devon trader had to pay £25 for suggesting that something's "value" was higher than its price.

In Blackburn, Lancashire, a furniture warehouse's advertisements featured two lines of text, one technical, the other a stark disposal trader was similarly fined £50 each on two charges, having quoted "normal prices" which were not in fact his own.

If prices elsewhere are specific and accurate, a firm called Addastix and its salesmen slipped up on that in

Avon when claiming orally that the three-piece suite which they were selling "would cost £600 at Jolly's in Bath". The claim could not be substantiated and it cost them £50 each.

Diligent work with tape recorders also caught a one-day sale operator in Derbyshire saying "elsewhere you would expect to pay £32—my price is £12". The court found him £25 in error.

In Dorset a market trader was fined £50 for each of four vague oral price claims. The recorder was even more successful in Devon and Kent, where the same mock auctioneer was caught in both counties in full-scale verbal worth and value claims ("worth" this, "normally" that, "in a catalogue it would cost" £25, which cost him £25 on each of 10 charges).

The tally is not overwhelming—14 cases involving 60 charges brought by nine authorities, netting £7,150 in fines—but it shows that trading standards authorities are at least making serious and getting successful prosecutions out of the order. Traders no doubt dislike liability to fines, which could go up to £1,000 on summary conviction, for offences which they might regard as technical, but it appears that in all these cases consumers might have been misled by the sort of price comparisons that were being made.

Advertisers also now have less excuse than they do not understand the provisions of the order. The Advertising Standards Authority suspended the relevant section of the British Code of Advertising Practice shortly after the bargain offers order was introduced, claiming that the code might be brought into irreconcilable conflict with the new law.

While the code generally permitted claims which could be substantiated, the bargain offers order prohibited some of them. Equally, some advertisements which would not have been acceptable under the code would not have offended the order.

The difficulty has still not been resolved by Mr Peter Thomson, the ASA's director-general, has now produced and circulated his own guidance notes on the order.

These fill eight pages and the give warning that they "do not attempt completeness" and "refer to some pitfalls that have been little publicized hitherto. Comparisons with an advertiser's future intended price, for example, must make clear precisely when it is proposed to charge the new price. (At the same time it seems doubtful that a prosecution would succeed simply because, in the event, the price was not then increased.)

Mr Thomson's interpretation is also that advertisers cannot compare their present prices with competitors' previous prices, even if the circumstances are precisely well-out. He issues a strong warning against unspecific claims, but says that phrases like "up to 50 per cent off" are not necessarily objectionable, though in conjunction with a price claim they might run into trouble with some trading standard authorities.

Business Diary: Novamark's maestros match Metro

John Murphy and Mike Grant are the directors of the company which came up with the name Metro for BL. That is their biggest "find" to date in seven years of looking for names, although they think they have another good "coming off in a few weeks with the launch of a disposable razor which on their advice Gillette is to call Slalom.

Murphy and Grant are the men behind Novamark International, whose motto is "We create trademarks all over the world".

BL came to Novamark early in 1979, about 18 months before Metro, then codenamed LCB, was due to be launched.

The problem, Murphy told me yesterday, was not that BL could not find a name, but that it had too many. One of those I heard was rather apt—it was "Termini"—because it could have been the end of the road for BL if Metro had flopped.

BL wanted something short, and that was not rude in any language or "owned" by anybody else.



Putting a name to the product: John Murphy (left) and Mike Grant, managing director and fellow director of Novamark International in London yesterday.

which are people like Scrabble champion David Stirling. The groups had two-hour sessions. Murphy and Grant came into this business through cars: the former was once a marketing man for Dunlop, lumbered with finding a name for a new tyre—later appeared after a long search as the Dunovo—and the latter was a trade mark lawyer with the same company.

Finding that employees and advertising agencies can come up with names aplenty, but not the one that is necessarily right either in marketing or legal

terms, Murphy and Grant threw in their jobs and their lots together.

I thought this was what Grant was taking, but it really is the name of a Finnish product for unfreezing car locks, and moreover one sold in this country. Not to be outdone, Murphy then handed me a packet of Bum, the brand name of some crisps PepsiCo sell in Spain.

Grant, the lawyer, watches over less exotically named brand names for manufacturers such as Mars.

Curiously enough, the name "Novamark" is not one of Murphy and Grant's own. It is an off-the-peg one, if a nice fit for what came to them when they acquired the British business of a French firm that once traded under that name.

I should add, perhaps, that they got my name wrong and called me "Davis" instead of "Davies" in a letter they sent me the other day, but we got that straight when I called on them yesterday.

I have had a letter from the British Printing Industries Federation to say that presentation of the National Business Calendar Awards will be made on Wednesday, January 28, and not "Wednesday, February 28", as previously advised. Besides being a month out, February 28 is in any case a Saturday, as calendar printers should know. The hapless lady who sent the letter of correction is a Helena Memory.

Of all the parties involved in the hostages drama, the Algerians, the Americans, the Algerians and the British, it was the British who to the end remained the most secretive.

Even as the two emissaries from the Bank of England flew on Friday to Algiers to help with fund transfer problems and new Iranian accounts, the authorities in London only reluctantly admitted that they had gone there at all.

Kit McMahon, the deputy governor at the Bank and David Somerset, the chief cashier, are in their normal roles far from being trouble-shooters.

Kit McMahon, a 53-year-old genial Australian has spent much of his life as an academic economist. His career is not that of a traditional banker. He joined the Bank in 1964 after a spell at the Treasury.

Bar McMahon's reputation at the Bank rests firmly on his international role. In 1976 he was the main negotiator of the \$5,300m sterling rescue package which included support from the Fed and other central banks as well as International Monetary Fund (IMF) backing.

David Somerset, the chief cashier since last year, is an international role. In 1976 he was the main negotiator of the \$5,300m sterling rescue package which included support from the Fed and other central banks as well as International Monetary Fund (IMF) backing.

His career is that of a traditional central banker with only a three-year spell at the IMF.

Having noted Kenneth Baker's appointment as Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, I was naturally interested to know whom he would appoint as his PPS.

In fact, as I learnt yesterday, it is John Lee, who entered the House after last year's general election as the member for Nelson and Colne, although he has been around in Tory politics for much longer, notably as political secretary to Robert Carr.

It was, however, in Lee's business background that I was most interested. The Department of Industry said in a statement that he had founded and later sold out his own quoted group and was a director of a building society, but the civil servants named neither.

It was here that industry and information technology broke down, for nobody at the minister's ministry could supply the missing names.

They are in fact, Chancery Consolidated, which Lee sold out to Argus Latham six years ago, and the Midlands Building Society.

Out of place: reader P. C. J. Nair writes from Kuala Lumpur to say that he saw in Singapore recently a sign advertising a company called Unlimited Enterprises Limited.

Ross Davies

Hickson & Welch (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS AND TIMBER PRESERVERS

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for 1980

Year ended 30th September	1980	1979
Turnover	£93,296	85,527
Exports sales of the U.K. companies	28,600	30,200
Group profit before tax	5,475	8,064
Earnings for ordinary shareholders	3,242	7,821
Total ordinary dividend	1,450	1,450
Earnings—pence per share	17	39
Investment in new capital expenditure	4,236	6,542

* Profits from chemical operations significantly reduced with trading in the six months to 30th September, 1980 particularly difficult.

* Main adverse factors affecting the chemical side were higher energy and raw material costs than those of international competitors, high interest rates and especially the effect of the strong pound on export margins.

* Profits from timber preservation activities improved in the year with the overseas subsidiaries providing satisfactory results.

* Capital expenditure concentrated on completion of existing projects and expenditure directed towards improved efficiency.

* Future prospects should see some improvement in timber preservation and building materials, but conditions affecting the chemical side are expected to remain difficult in 1980/81.

* Recommended final dividend 5p per share for 1980/81 making total 7.5p for the year—the same as last year.

CASTLEFORD • WEST YORKSHIRE

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Wall Street

New York, Jan. 20.—The stock market was caught in a windraft circulating around the release of the American hostages and the inauguration

The Temple Bar no longer in shares (7.86

Other

	1 month	3 months	
20	1.21-1.22 disc	2.78-2.88 disc	Australia
200	0.85-0.88 disc	2.10-2.25 disc	Bahrain
740	1.01-1.02 disc	2.81-2.91 disc	Bangladesh
100	23-26 prem	46-36 prem	Greece
1000	208-198 prem	25-2100 prem	Hong Kong
1000	10-11 prem	69-34 prem	Iran
100	26-34 prem	69-34 prem	Kuwait
100	20-30 disc	200-73 disc	Malaysia
100	21-30 disc	16-21 disc	Mexico
100	21-30 disc	20-21 disc	New Zealand
100	21-30 disc	20-21 disc	Philippines
100	44-34 prem	9-8 prem	Saudi Arabia
100	11-15 disc	2615-2600 disc	Singapore
100	11-15 disc	05-219 prem	South Africa
100	11-15 disc	20-20 prem	
100	11-15 disc	9-9 prem	

42,000,000 shares from
36,470,000 yesterday.

Experts said investors were disappointed that President Reagan's inaugural address was not more specific and they were also discouraged that the market did not rally on news of the return of the hostages.

Defence and oil stocks were two of the hardest hit groups and high technology issues were also weak. Some southern investors who had hoped to see Mr Reagan talk about specific tax measures and defence spending plans.

Among the oils, active Occidental Petroleum fell two to 312 and Mobil three to 78; Exxon 11 to

Money Market

Bank of England MLR 14%
(Last changed 26/11/89).
Clearing Bank Base Rate 14%
Discount Mkt Loans 7%
Overnight: Bight 14 14
Week Fixed: 12 12
Treasury Bills

US commodities

New York, Jan 20 — GOLD prices for January 01, the Omani closed a session at \$360.00, an ounce more than the previous day. Jan. 2006, at \$370.00, \$372.00. March, at \$380.00. April, at \$385.00. May, at \$390.00. June, at \$395.00. July, at \$400.00. August, at \$405.00. September, at \$410.00. October, at \$415.00. November, at \$420.00. December, at \$425.00.

Prime Bank Bills (Dis²)

Local Authority		
1 month	15 ¹ / ₂ -15 ³ / ₄	7 months
2 months	15 ³ / ₄ -14 ¹ / ₂	8 months
3 months	14 ¹ / ₂ -14	9 months
4 months	14 ¹ / ₂ -13 ³ / ₄	10 months
5 months	14-13 ³ / ₄	11 months
6 months	13 ³ / ₄ -13 ¹ / ₂	12 months

Secondary Mkt. ECD		
1 month	14 ¹ / ₂ -14 ¹ / ₂	6 months
2 months	14 ¹ / ₂ -14	7 months
3 months	14-13 ³ / ₄	8 months
4 months	13 ³ / ₄ -13 ¹ / ₂	9 months
5 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -13	10 months
6 months	13-12 ³ / ₄	11 months
7 months	12 ³ / ₄ -12 ¹ / ₂	12 months

[illegible]

	Local Authority M	
3 days	14	3 mo
7 days	14 1/2 - 14 3/4	6 mo
1 month	14 1/2 - 14 3/4	1 yr

Interbank Market		
Overnight	Open 14	Close 13
1 week	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 m
1 month	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 m
3 months	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 m

First Class Finance House	
3 months	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 m

Finance House Base Rate 15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
--	--

(C) Feb.	83.50	Jan.	10.87-90.00
Mar.	75.00-76.00	Feb.	10.00-10.50
Apr.	71.00	Mar.	9.00
May	68.00	Apr.	8.75
June	65.00	May	8.50
July	63.00	June	10.15-10.50
Aug.	60.00	July	10.00
Sept.	58.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	56.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	54.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	52.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	50.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	48.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	46.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	44.00	Mar.	10.00
May	42.00	Apr.	10.00
June	40.00	May	10.00
July	38.00	June	10.00
Aug.	36.00	July	10.00
Sept.	34.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	32.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	30.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	28.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	26.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	24.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	22.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	20.00	Mar.	10.00
May	18.00	Apr.	10.00
June	16.00	May	10.00
July	14.00	June	10.00
Aug.	12.00	July	10.00
Sept.	10.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	8.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	6.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	4.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	2.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	0.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	0.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	0.00	Mar.	10.00
May	0.00	Apr.	10.00
June	0.00	May	10.00
July	0.00	June	10.00
Aug.	0.00	July	10.00
Sept.	0.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	0.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	0.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	0.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	0.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	0.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	0.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	0.00	Mar.	10.00
May	0.00	Apr.	10.00
June	0.00	May	10.00
July	0.00	June	10.00
Aug.	0.00	July	10.00
Sept.	0.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	0.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	0.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	0.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	0.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	0.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	0.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	0.00	Mar.	10.00
May	0.00	Apr.	10.00
June	0.00	May	10.00
July	0.00	June	10.00
Aug.	0.00	July	10.00
Sept.	0.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	0.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	0.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	0.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	0.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	0.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	0.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	0.00	Mar.	10.00
May	0.00	Apr.	10.00
June	0.00	May	10.00
July	0.00	June	10.00
Aug.	0.00	July	10.00
Sept.	0.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	0.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	0.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	0.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	0.00	Dec.	10.00
Feb.	0.00	Jan.	10.00
Mar.	0.00	Feb.	10.00
Apr.	0.00	Mar.	10.00
May	0.00	Apr.	10.00
June	0.00	May	10.00
July	0.00	June	10.00
Aug.	0.00	July	10.00
Sept.	0.00	Aug.	10.00
Oct.	0.00	Sept.	10.00
Nov.	0.00	Oct.	10.00
Dec.	0.00	Nov.	10.00
Jan.	0.00	Dec.	10.00

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Comango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Send this coupon, together with your cheque made payable to Times Newspapers Limited, to: Valentines Day Messages, The ASA Department,
4th Floor, The Times, P.O. Box 1, News Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

NEW YEAR NEW HOME

A chink of light in the housing gloom

The war years apart, 1980 was the worst in more than 50 years for new housebuilding. With unemployment among construction workers reaching record levels private housing completions slumped to 120,000 and starts on the ground to 96,000. And as the gloomiest year in memory went on, the housebuilding recession grew steadily worse.

According to Department of the Environment statistics, total housing starts in the three months September-November were 7 per cent lower than in the previous quarter, and 41 per cent down on a year earlier while completions were down 7 and 10 per cent respectively—and as the words grew on vacant building plots Mr Neil McIntosh, director of Shelter, was moved to say earlier this month: "In the months ahead, the statistics will assume the form of a blank piece of paper."

It takes a brave man to predict a recovery in the coming year but in his annual review Mr Andrew Tait, Director General of the National House Building Council—the consumer watchdog body—detects a chink of light in the gloom.

He gave three reasons why 1981 should be a better year: house prices have risen at a much slower rate of 6 per cent while average earnings have increased at over 20 per cent in the past year; the average deposit which first time buyers must pay has fallen; interest rates are on the way down.

In his review he added: "The housing market is a pyramid. These changes will enable more first time buyers at the foot of the pyramid to afford to buy. For new housing the picture is further improved by the fact that many builders have switched production to starter units to cater for the half of households which now comprise one or two persons."

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Tait said: "My optimism might imply that I think things will be marvellous, whereas I think they will be less worse. But I also think

that part of the depression is caused by the fact that everyone preaches gloom and doom. We have to have a balanced view of things. We shall start more houses this year than last though still far fewer than we shall see in 1982 unless there is some new catastrophe."

With the high interest rates, average monthly mortgage repayments were too high in relation to earnings to stimulate the market and encourage builders to put up speculative developments. It was this factor, together with too fast a rise in house prices a year ago, which led to the disaster of the past 12 months.

"Now prices have stabilised over the past nine months", said Mr Tait, "and interest rates have come down one point. That is not enough to make a decisive difference but it does make some difference and, as rates come down, so the position will improve."

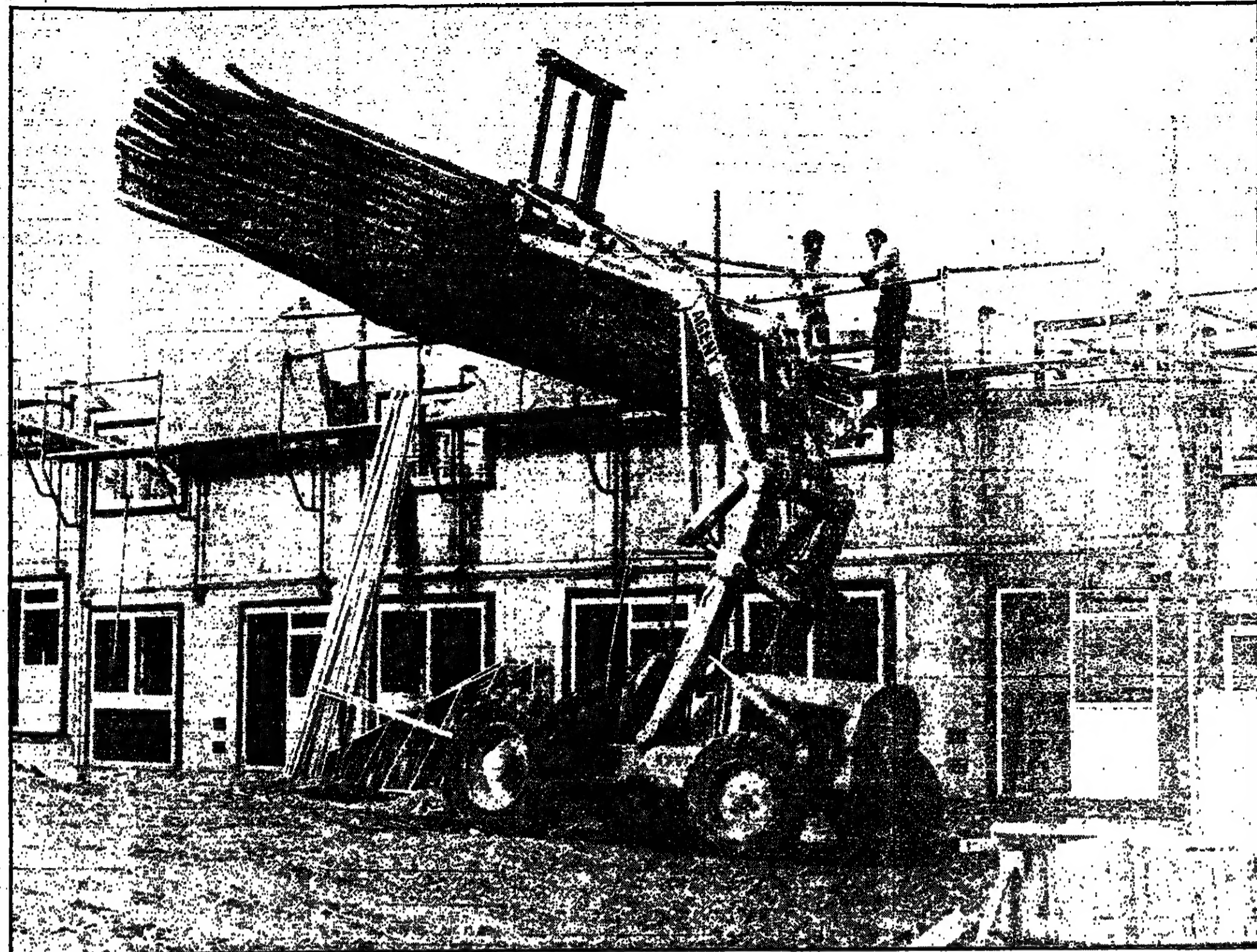
The problem is the vendor in the second-hand market who still has an inflated idea of the value of his house. We have had people writing to us about houses which were badly built and we knew that on the same estate other people were trying to sell for £80,000 houses which cost them £11,000 10 years ago. Sellers have had to go through a period of psychological adjustment and the process is still going on."

Speculative builders will only return when builders detect confidence in the market and Mr Tait believes this will only be achieved by a 2 per cent drop in interest rates.

Mr Tait added: "I would be a clever chap if I knew precisely when there might be an improvement but we might begin to see one in the spring and early summer."

Particularly depressing to the NHBCC has been the performance in Scotland, which does not have a tradition of home ownership and where there have been attempts to stimulate one. Only about 8,000 new homes were built in Scotland last year, representing 9 per cent of the 96,000 total of starts.

The south-east had 15 per



cent of the total, the south-west 19 per cent, the east 16 per cent, the west 14 per cent, the north-east 17 per cent, and the north-west 10 per cent. Of the 96,000 starts, 9,000 were by Wimpey Homes who claim to be the world's leading private home builders.

A spokesman there said: "We are optimistic. Early signs look encouraging. There is more flexibility in the

second-hand home market, and that is the key to renewed buoyancy. A large number of people haven't been able to sell and that has held back sales. That is what has caused the congestion in the system. The first-time purchase element has been strong."

"We are going into 1981 with a large spread of sites and we have attractive energy-saving homes to offer. Last

year speculative development was diminished and we were only building to order."

"We are hoping to see speculative development again in late summer or early autumn." Not everyone is as optimistic about a quick recovery. Mr Jamie Stephenson, economic adviser to the House Builders' Federation, said: "I am an agnostic when it comes to predictions of a better year. I

am quite relaxed about the solvency of building companies but not optimistic about the number of starts this coming year. It will be perhaps about 110,000. But the year after you will see the number of starts jump to 130-135,000. It's the classic cycle. It will happen as the economy is reflation. To get things moving we need local authorities to plough more land into the market, to

release it under partnership deals with builders to develop for low cost ownership or half ownership. There has to be some enterprise."

The recession has led to enterprising schemes which builders have been forced to offer to prospective purchasers in a bid to keep the market moving.

Countryside Homes, for instance, are offering three

options—a mortgage subsidy, a house exchange, or a moving-in allowance—to induce purchasers to buy from them.

These are initiatives which will continue to be needed over the next few painful months before the market returns to something approaching normality.

Michael Horsnell

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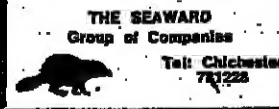
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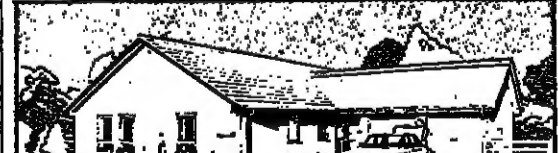
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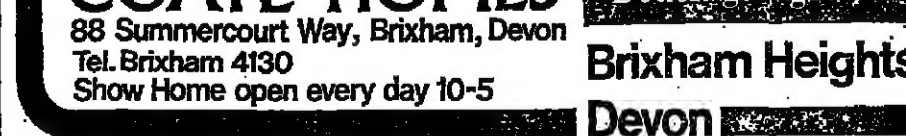
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